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All-night battle for 20-30 waverers

Major leads but third round ballot expected

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was last night heading for a clear lead in the second ballot for the party leadership, as contenders for the succession to Margaret Thatcher battled all night for the 20 or 30 wavering votes which could decide the contest today.

While Mr Major, Douglas Hurd and Michael Heseltine paraded their wares last night before a meeting of the right-wing 92 Group, the rival camps conceded privately that the chancellor was ahead. One of Mr Hurd's supporters said: "John is ahead, but not miles ahead." However, even the Major supporters were expecting the contest to go to a third ballot on Thursday.

With the declaration in his favour yesterday by Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, Mr Major has now received public support from eight cabinet ministers to six for Mr Hurd and just one for Mr Heseltine.

Mr Heseltine's vote appeared to be coming under some pressure last night from

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a late effort by the foreign secretary. There was overwhelming support for Mr Major from the trawling of opinion in constituency parties by the National Union of Conservative Associations. No official figures were issued, but the Major camp claimed that 495 constituencies had supported the chancellor to just 41 for Mr Heseltine and 16 for Mr Hurd. Mr Heseltine was apparently suffering because activists were wary about his chances of uniting the party. The so-called "regicide factor" for having initiated the contest which brought down Mrs Thatcher was counting against him.

Mr Heseltine told *The Times* yesterday that it was simply the same reaction as when Mrs Thatcher challenged Edward Heath in 1975, and that it would disappear in a matter of weeks as the party united under a new leader.

An opinion poll by NOP for today's *Independent* gave the chancellor a further boost. Asked which Tory leader would make them more likely to vote Conservative, 30 per cent of all electors said Mr Major, 26 per cent Mr Heseltine and 11 per cent Mr Hurd. Among Conservative supporters, the figures were: Mr Major 43 per cent, Mr Heseltine 30 per cent and Mr Hurd 16 per cent.

The chancellor was seeing wavering MPs in his room at the Commons last night and, as the propaganda war continued through the tea rooms, one excited Major supporter claimed: "They are going down like nincompoops."

To win outright on the second ballot a candidate needs 187 votes. For the Major camp Norman Lamont, the Treasury chief secretary, claimed yesterday that there were nearly 170 votes promised.

Mr Heseltine, who won 152 votes in the first round against Mrs Thatcher, claimed that he had 160 firm pledges. He said: "We have more firm pledges than John Major's supporters are claiming at the moment and that has been the situation all the way through." His support was harder to track than that of the other contenders because some MPs were

reluctant to announce their backing publicly for fear of trouble with constituency associations. The Hurd camp claimed: "The figures that are coming out of the other groups are wildly imaginative. They are making them up."

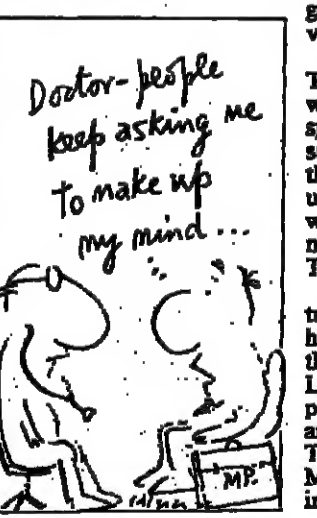
Sir Giles Shaw, for the Hurd team, said they were "shoulder to shoulder" with Mr Heseltine and that they had picked up ten more votes yesterday. Among those who declared publicly for Mr Hurd yesterday were Sir Patrick Mayhew, the attorney general, Richard Luce, the former arts minister, Nicholas Budge, a former whip, and David Curry, the junior agriculture minister.

Gillian Shepherd, the social security minister and a member of the Chancellor's team, asked about the discrepancies in numbers from the various sides, said: "That seems to be showbiz. We know how many firm pledges we have and we are very comfortable with that."

As well as the support of Mr Parkinson, Mr Major was endorsed by Nicolas Ridley, the former trade secretary. Hurd and Heseltine supporters were claiming that Mr Major's campaign was taking on an ever more right-wing tinge which would make life difficult for him in a third ballot.

They argued that Mr Major would be likely in a third round to receive the second preferences of MPs who were voting for Mr Hurd or Mr Heseltine. Mr Major would be counting on some second preferences from Mr Hurd as a "cabinet unity" candidate.

Mr Hurd claimed at a Westminster press conference yesterday: "I am in a good sporting position to come through the middle."



Fond farewell: Kenneth Baker, party chairman, leads the cheers for Mrs Thatcher as she leaves Conservative Central Office yesterday

Thatcher has day of farewells with staff

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher said her goodbyes and thanks yesterday to Conservative party staff and political colleagues who have been closest to her during her 15 years as Tory leader.

Her impending departure has provoked a mass wave of sympathy and support, with more than 24,000 letters and 1,000 bouquets sent to Downing Street, officials said.

As removal men began transferring her belongings to Dulwich, Mrs Thatcher went to Conservative Central Office to say farewell to the 150 workers. Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, kissed her goodbye after her 30-minute visit and staff applauded her.

Mr Baker said that Mrs Thatcher would carry on working for the party. She had spoken, he said, about the successes of the past and how they would be built upon under the new leader. "We were obviously very sad, but most of the tears were shed on Thursday," Mr Baker said.

The prime minister returned to Downing Street to host a lunch for key figures of the Thatcher era, including Lord Thorneycroft, her first party chairman, Lord Joseph, and Norman Tebbit. Mr Tebbit said afterwards that Mrs Thatcher might seek an international role in politics.

Moscow adopts tougher line against Saddam

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND ANDREW MCEWEN IN LONDON

TARIQ Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, arrived unexpectedly in Moscow yesterday as President Gorbachev and the Soviet foreign ministry indicated that Moscow could be ready to consider more resolute action to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Diplomatic sources said America was almost certain to get enough votes to pass a UN Security Council resolution on Thursday giving implicit authorisation for the use of force.

But Britain unexpectedly showed little enthusiasm for Washington's proposal that the resolution should set a January 1 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait. Whitehall sources said the government would go along with it, but saw disadvantages as it could be misunderstood as the date on which war will begin.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in a BBC TV interview yesterday: "I want to make it absolutely clear that this is not a deadline on which military action would start; it

would be a deadline after which member states would be authorised to begin military action."

The growing belief that conflict will begin in January pushed up the price of oil by two dollars a barrel. North Sea Brent blend, the world benchmark crude oil, traded at over \$33 a barrel.

President Saddam Hussein said yesterday that many Iraqis had died through lack of food and medicine. But Whitehall sources said there was no evidence of a serious lack of food and medicine imports were not barred by UN sanctions. The sources said the attitude might have been different if Iraq had not refused to allow a United Nations special representative to visit Baghdad.

His remark was seen as the latest in a series of moves to draw sympathy from other Arab nations. It might also influence the attitude of non-aligned members of the Security Council whose votes will

determine whether the resolution passes.

The Soviet Union, in a burst of diplomatic activity before the vote, is to host the Saudi foreign minister in Moscow today. Vitali Churkin, in his debut as the foreign ministry's chief press spokesman, warned that Moscow would be forced to take a tougher stance towards Iraq unless Baghdad allowed more than 700 Soviet citizens to leave. "We feel serious concern at delays in getting Soviet citizens out of Iraq," he said. "Iraq is entirely at fault for this. The timetable has been broken."

Mr Churkin made clear that Mr Aziz had been summoned to Moscow to address both the matter of Soviet citizens detained in Iraq and Baghdad's failure to comply with successive UN Security Council resolutions.

He said that Iraq had undertaken to allow a total of 1,000 Soviet specialists to leave the country during November. It

'IRA men' caught after vigil

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO men allegedly plotting an IRA bombing campaign were caught by police as they tried to recover arms from two caches on the cliffs overlooking St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Police had kept secret vigil for 42 days after national park wardens stumbled upon one of the caches.

The arrest of the two men led anti-terrorist squad officers to a flat in Luton, Bedfordshire, where a hit list which included the entire cabinet, members of the Sainsbury family, and prominent army officers was found with explosives and arms under the kitchen sink.

The two men, Liam O'Dhuibhir, aged 28, and Damien McComb, aged 22, deny conspiring with other persons unknown to cause explosions in the UK on diverse days before December 22 last year.

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Surgeons killed

Two senior consultant plastic surgeons were stabbed to death in their rooms at a hospital in Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Police said last night that a man was arrested in Huddersfield.

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Duke's victory



The Duke of Westminster won a High Court battle to keep seven blocks of flats on a prime residential site in central London solely for housing the working class.

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Mother sues

The Court of Appeal has ruled that two men should face a civil action for damages brought by a mother who claims that they murdered her young daughter.

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Mandela plan

The debate over South Africa's future will move forward today when Nelson Mandela meets President de Klerk with proposals for an elected assembly.

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Sexy shoes

Manolo Blahnik puts sexy shoes costing £300 on women's feet. His designs are a fashion statement, but where lies his inspiration?

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Grim forecast

Britain's investment in manufacturing will be cut by 10 per cent by the end of next year and the number of jobs will rise by more than 250,000, according to the latest forecast from the Society of Business Economists.

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England rest

The England cricket team beaten in the first Test against Australia were yesterday ordered to take 36 hours off by the tour manager who says they need a rest.

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Walesa prepares to fight again

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

LECH Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, yesterday began the final stage of his energetic campaign to be elected president of Poland with a clear majority in the second round over Stanislaw Tyminski, the Polish-Catholic businessman who was his nearest rival in the first round.

Provisional results from Sunday's election showed that Mr Walesa had 39 per cent of the vote, compared to Mr Tyminski's 23 per cent. Tadeusz

Mazowiecki polled a bare 17 per cent of the vote, effectively ending not only his presidential ambitions but his 14-month tenure as Poland's prime minister.

The second-round poll, between the two leading candidates will be on December 9.

Mr Walesa yesterday said he was certain he would win it. "I simply must win for the sake of Poland and for democracy," he said.

The meteoric rise of Mr

Tyminski, aged 42, who has no political connections in Poland, began only a month ago when he returned to his homeland after 20 years abroad. Little is known about those two decades of absence, and several discrepancies have been found in his campaign biography. He is alleged to have concealed a history of

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India plans £6m project to save its elephants

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA is planning a concerted campaign to ensure the survival of its hardy population of 20,000 elephants, which are being forced into a shrinking habitat because of the plunder of forests by rural peasants.

The drive will be based on the government's successful Operation Tiger, which has ensured the survival of the species four decades after the officers of the Raj went home with their hunting rifles. The tiger population is now around 2,000.

Project Elephant will be a low-budget affair, with almost £6 million allocated over a four-year period when it is finally unveiled early next year. The elephant population, which has increased by almost ten per cent in the past decade, is described by

government officials as stable. The project will focus on conservation programmes in areas identified as elephant reserves. Attempts will be made to help rural populations to find an alternative fuel to forest timber, and the campaign against the ivory trade will be intensified.

The natural habitat of India's elephants is being eroded by unrestricted cattle grazing, as well as by villagers cutting down trees and bushes for fuel. Poachers also continue to roam unhindered through some areas of the main elephant country of southern India, having paid hefty bribes to wildlife officers and police.

There are hardly any bull elephants left in some pockets of the south, and poachers are even slaughtering the young males for their tiny tusks. But the Indian elephant is threatened less by poachers' bullets than by the need

of peasants for wood, which is extremely expensive in India. The plunder of forests has taken on staggering proportions, with forest cover reduced by half in four decades, leaving just more than ten per cent of India covered in trees. An estimated 80 million cattle wander freely through the countryside, preventing forest regeneration.

Project Elephant will be a far more complex operation than Project Tiger, which simply required the establishment of relatively small reserves. The elephants wander over vast areas, often raiding farmers' crops and even killing people when they are hungry and distressed. Environment ministry officials say wandering "problem elephants" are migrating hundreds of miles from their usual territories because of dwindling food and shelter, turning up in areas where they have

British troops not ready for deadline

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN RIYADH

THE 14,000 extra British troops being despatched to Saudi Arabia and the heavy armour accompanying them will not be fully operational until several weeks after the January 1 deadline which Washington hopes the United Nations will set this week for the possible use of force against Iraq.

This disclosure was made yesterday at the first joint press conference held by the British and Saudi-based commanders of the British force which will eventually total around 35,000 men and which is seen as vital to keeping down casualties on the allied side in any attack.

Western military experts said later that the British arrival time combined with the complex logistical problems being encountered by the

American forces in their despatch of reinforcements meant that February was regarded as the earliest date in which the military option is likely to be used.

Referring to the large British reinforcements which will bring the British contribution to Operation Desert Shield from brigade to division strength, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, the overall commander of British forces in the Gulf, said: "It will not be fully deployed and fully trained in theatre by that time (January 1); it will take a few weeks more than that." Sir Patrick added that he did not think the setting of a dated ultimatum was necessary. "I would be content with the resolution which outlines the use of force under certain circumstances," he said.

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Think tanks search the field for a lifeline after Thatcher

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major is winning the battle of ideas among the right-wing policy institutes, which have had such an impact on the Conservative agenda under Margaret Thatcher's leadership.

Two leading figures from the think tanks yesterday endorsed the chancellor as the man most likely to carry forward the radicalism of the Thatcher years. Madsen Pirie, president of the Adam Smith Institute, declined to express a preference, but sources close to him indicated that he too regarded Mr Major as his most promising prospective lifeline.

David Willetts, director at the Centre for Policy Studies, which

Mrs Thatcher founded with the then Sir Keith Joseph in the mid-1970s, seemed in little doubt that the chancellor would prove most receptive to the free-market philosophy peddled by all three ideas factories. However, with Mr Major seeking to broaden his appeal to all sections of opinion among the 372 MPs voting today, Mr Willetts recognised that too enthusiastic an endorsement by the radical right could prove counter-productive.

Mr Willetts, who specialised in social security in the 10 Downing Street policy unit when Mr Major was a junior social security minister in the mid-1980s, identified the chancellor's economic expertise as his trump card. "In a modern democracy, economics is

the single most important issue for the electorate and John is by far the most assured and confident when it comes to talking about the economy."

The CPS director, who counts the abolition of the dock labour scheme, the internal market in the NHS and the scheme to make absentee fathers pay the maintenance of their abandoned children among his unit's most recent successes, believes that Mr Major will prove receptive to new ideas. However, as with Margaret Thatcher, proposals will have to be solidly argued and based on fact and practical experience.

Mr Willetts, who wants the government to go further in reforming the welfare state, said he was particularly encouraged by

the emphasis Mr Major put on restoring the self-respect of the poor and giving them more control over their lives. The debate was moving away from simply throwing money at problems.

Michael Heseltine's interventionist industrial policies were a cause for concern, but he was not beyond redemption. His work on the scheme, under which the jobless would have to work for their benefits, corresponded with the centre's own thinking.

David Green is director of the health and welfare unit at the Institute of Economic Affairs, which published Hayek's plan for competing currencies 14 years before the chancellor and which has had a big influence on the government's trade union reforms,

privatisation and its anti-inflationary stance.

He saw Mr Heseltine as a "pragmatic politician" who might turn to radical solutions, such as education vouchers and private health insurance when the limitations of the existing reforms were exposed. But even if Mrs Thatcher had survived, the short-term outlook was gloomy.

"In these areas, Mrs Thatcher, who was known to favour more radical changes, has been a prisoner of the faction that got rid of her for the past 18 months. I cannot see any of the three contenders wanting to put them back on the agenda this side of a general election."

In the longer run, however, Dr Green believes that the "force of

events" will propel fundamental change back on to the agenda. In the NHS, for instance, it will become apparent that no amount of taxpayers' money will pay for the services the public will want and that an insurance-based system will have to be reconsidered. Mr Major would probably be the most sympathetic to such ideas.

"John Major is the preferable from the point of view of carrying on the Thatcher mode," Dr Green said. "I do not despair that our ideas for reforming the welfare state through greater consumer choice are hopeless."

Douglas Hurd is a "master of foreign affairs," according to Mr Willetts, but his stance on social policy is unclear. Dr Green is less kind. The foreign secretary is an

"old-fashioned grandee," who believes that you can "get all the best things together and jolly well sort things out."

Dr Pirie believes that the think tanks will continue to flourish irrespective of who takes over. Governments have found that it is helpful to "privatise" policy-making. That way, if new ideas prove embarrassing, ministers can disclaim any direct responsibility for them. The next year should prove especially busy as the election-making moves into top gear. There is also the ticklish matter of the poll tax. With all three candidates committed to a further review, Dr Pirie is dusting off his ideas for making it more palatable.

Contestants find their numbers don't quite add up

By STAFF REPORTERS

JOHN Major's leadership campaign was in a bullish mood yesterday, claiming the support of more than 160 Tory MPs in the leadership contest. Norman Lamont, the campaign manager, said that over the past few days a number of members had switched allegiance to the Chancellor having supported either Michael Heseltine or Douglas Hurd. "This is a reflection of the massive constituency backing for Mr Major," Mr Lamont said.

The Chancellor spent much of the day in the Commons talking to the undecided and stiffening the resolve of

MAJOR CAMPAIGN

wavering. Earlier he had walked down Downing Street to the Treasury surrounded by camera crews and photographers. He told reporters that the economy was going very well and inflation forecasts were on target.

Gillian Shephard, a minister at the social security department and a prominent member of the Major campaign team, said yesterday that constituency returns showed overwhelming support for the Chancellor. "They also demonstrate that backing has increased among women where we had been losing support," she added.

Mrs Shephard said the growing level of support for Mr Major in the country ought to be enough to sway the wavering. "If colleagues can't take the message then they don't know what's good for them."

Asked if the Chancellor suffered from a lack of appeal to women voters, Mrs Shephard replied: "Not all of us go for flamboyance. Women take a practical view. What is done has to be paid for. John Major is someone who knows about

the economy, who also has a caring face and he is the youngest contender too."

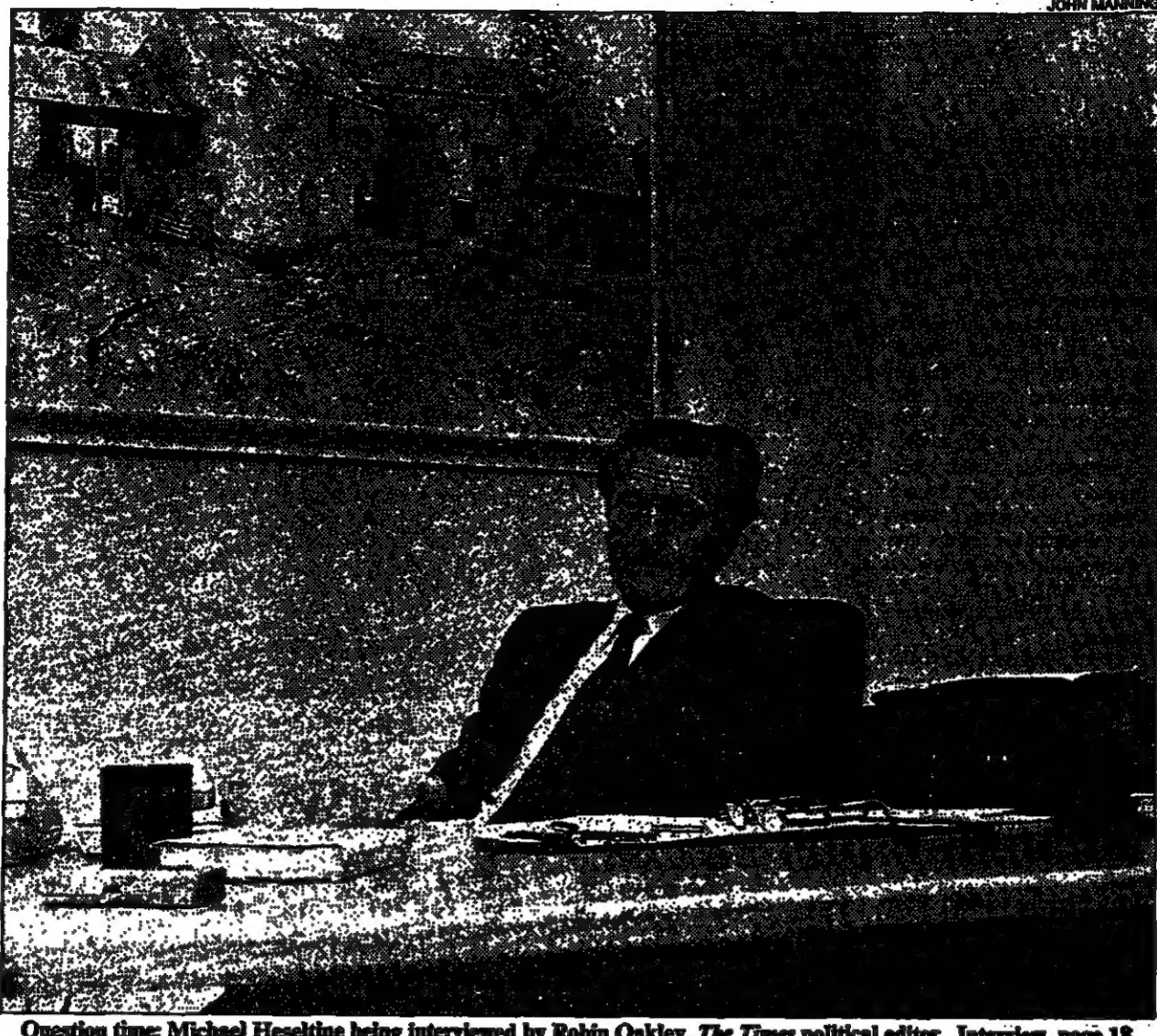
HESELTINE CAMPAIGN

The Heseltine camp was playing the numbers game yesterday, but nobody was quite sure of the accuracy of their arithmetic. Even Mr Heseltine admitted that the Commons complement of Tory members had risen mysteriously over the weekend from 372 to 481.

He would not say how many firm pledges had come in to campaign headquarters at his Haymarket publishing office in Victoria Street, but he hinted the other two candidates could not, according to his maths, have the support

"There is only one thing to do," he said. "And that is to talk quietly, calmly and patiently to the guys and girls who have got the votes." He believed that Mr Major had fewer pledges than suggested and Mr Hurd more than had been quoted. "It is a question of seeing if we can make the breakthrough in the second ballot or whether we are going to wait until the third ballot when Douglas Hurd's second preferences are clearly coming our way and will make it decisive," Mr Heseltine said. Asked how many had declared their allegiance, he replied: "We never produce figures."

Sir Neil Macfarlane, campaign manager in place of Michael Mates, who is in the Gulf, gave a broad hint at the support needed when he said he had between 20 and 30 people still to see. "We have had more people pledging support for Michael and we are very encouraged by the figures. We shall be in the House of Commons until close of play today and shall be campaigning right up until



Question time: Michael Heseltine being interviewed by Robin Oakley, The Times political editor. Interview, page 18

HURD CAMPAIGN

Facing a struggle to achieve second place in today's ballot, Mr Hurd yesterday attempted to widen his appeal by promising changes in education, the health service and planning laws. Although the foreign secretary has looked distinctly

unhappy when pressed to give the number of votes committed to him, he was persuaded to play the numbers game and admitted to at least a hundred.

Mr Hurd was the only candidate to hold a formal press conference yesterday and in a clear attempt to increase the momentum of his campaign, the foreign secretary promised a number of changes. He said he wanted changes in Whitehall to bring education and training under the same umbrella rather than the present split between the education and employment departments.

He also tried to ally the worries among Conservative MPs about the health service reforms by promising that if he won the leadership, one of his first tasks would be to send the health secretary next week to consult with doctors and nurses about the changes.

Planked by his fellow cabinet ministers Chris Patten and Tom King, the foreign secretary, said he wanted to bring planning decisions closer to the people who had to live with them. It would involve transferring many planning powers from county councils to district councils.

He then went to his office in the Commons where he and his team spent the day talking to small groups of MPs. Mr Hurd said a number of wavering MPs in an attempt to win their support.

Heseltine interview, page 18

Answering back

In a tongue-in-cheek message on his telephone answering machine, Michael Brown, Tory MP for Brigs and Cleethorpes, says: "If you are an opinion poll from a newspaper you need trouble yourself so further - I am undecided. If you are ringing on behalf of one of the candidates I would like to be governor of the Cayman Islands and I would also like to have a baronetcy. But if you have any better offer please speak after the tone."

He won a scholarship to Rutlish grammar school in Wimbledon, but left at 16 after little academic success. He worked first as a clerk and then as a labourer.

Eventually, in 1965, he

Track records of three in search of a political crown

By PAUL WILKINSON

MICHAEL Heseltine was born on March 21, 1933, into a military family living in Swansea. He went to Pembroke College, Oxford, where he was awarded a BA in politics, philosophy and economics.

In 1959, Mr Heseltine was commissioned into the Welsh Guards during his National Service. He won place in the House of Commons in 1966, when he was elected Member for Tavistock.

In 1968, he was elected vice-chairman of the Conservative parliamentary transport committee, becoming the Opposition spokesman on transport the following year. For the 1972, he became minister for aerospace at the Department of Trade and Industry.

In 1974, he moved to become minister for the first time as environment secretary, becoming a privy councillor. In 1983, he assumed special responsibility for regenerating inner city areas after outbreaks of urban unrest and later that year became defence secretary.

In 1986, he resigned over the government's handling of the Westland affair.

JOHN Major was born on March 29, 1943, in Merton, south London. His father, Thomas, who was 66 at the time, had worked in several jobs including a circus high-wire act. His last business, making garden gnomes, failed and for much of John's early life the family lived in a two-room flat in Brixton.

He won a scholarship to Rutlish grammar school in Wimbledon, but left at 16 after little academic success. He worked first as a clerk and then as a labourer.

Eventually, in 1965, he

obtained a post in the City with the Standard Chartered Bank. He rose quickly to occupy significant posts at head office and overseas. One was assistant to the chairman, Lord Barber, a chancellor in Edward Heath's cabinet.

In 1968 he became a member of Lambeth council, in south London, and chaired the housing committee in 1970-1.

In 1974 he contested unsuccessfully 1979 he was one of the new intake of Tory MPs swept to power behind Mrs Thatcher when he won Huntingdonshire, since renamed Huntingdon and left his banking career for a life in politics.

Within two years he was a parliamentary private secretary at the Home Office. In 1983 became an assistant whip, becoming a senior whip the following year. In 1985 he was appointed parliamentary under-secretary for Edward Heath, who was then leader of the Opposition.

When Mr Heath became prime minister in 1970 Mr Hurd served as his political adviser. In 1970 he entered Parliament as member for Mid-Oxfordshire, renamed Witney in 1983.

From 1976 to 1979 he was the Opposition's European affairs spokesman, becoming minister of state at the Foreign Office in Mrs Thatcher's first government in 1979. In 1982 he was appointed a Privy Councillor. In 1983 he became a junior Home Office minister and entered the cabinet for the first time in 1984 as Northern Ireland secretary. He was there for only a year before promotion to home secretary.

In October last year, after the departure of Sir Geoffrey Howe, he was made foreign secretary.

Douglas Hurd: diplomatic service

Poll procedure

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VOTING in the second ballot for the Conservative party leadership takes place today between 11am and 6pm in a Commons committee room, with the result expected about 30 minutes after the end of polling.

The winner needs a majority: 187 of the 372 MPs who are entitled to vote. Yesterday, many Conservative MPs predicted that no overall victor would emerge and that the contest would go to a third ballot on Thursday.

If that turns out to be the case, each voter will list his first and second preferences under a single-transferable-vote system. The candidate polling the lowest number of first preferences is eliminated and his second preference votes redistributed among the remaining two candidates. Each voter must indicate two preferences among the three candidates; otherwise, the ballot paper is spoilt.

Douglas Hurd's supporters expect the contest to go to a third ballot and believe that this is his best chance. He must come second in the first part of the third round and hope that enough of the second preferences for the eliminated candidate will transfer to him to give him a majority.

If John Major got 161, for instance, Mr Hurd 130, and

Michael Heseltine 81, Mr Heseltine would be eliminated from the contest and his second preference votes distributed between the other two contestants. Mr Major would need only 26 of the second preferences to reach 187, but Mr Hurd would need 57 to reach the figure.

Mr Hurd's supporters believe that more of Mr Heseltine's support would transfer to him because he is seen as being from the centre left, while Mr Major is seen as Westminster as the prime minister's favoured successor and the candidate of the right.

If Mr Major got 133, Mr Heseltine 124 and Mr Hurd 115, the foreign secretary would be eliminated and his second preference votes distributed. If his second preferences are 60 to Mr Heseltine and 55 to Mr Major, Mr Major is elected with 188 votes to Mr Heseltine's 184.

The nightmare for the party would be if there was a tied result on the third ballot, with both candidates at 186.

The rules make no provision for such an outcome. Last night Cranley Onslow, chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, refused to speculate on what would then happen. "I am not thinking of that at the moment. You would have to leave it with me."

JOHN Major was last night wiping the betting shop floor with his rivals as the punters put their money on his attempt at the leadership. Corals had the chancellor on 8-13 with "lots of cash crossing the counter". Michael Heseltine was attracting "just the odd small wagers" on 5-4. Douglas Hurd should be reaching for the worry beads as Corals was offering 12-1.

Ladbrokes said "most of the smart money was riding on Mr Major at 4-7". Mr Heseltine had not lost all hope of 11-8 but Mr Hurd at 10-1 "was not looking too popular". William Hill said Mr Hurd was "frictionless in the market".

Business choices

Businessmen in the North-West are backing John Major to win the leadership contest, according to a survey carried out by the management consultants KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock. The survey found that 61 per cent said that Mr Major would be the best candidate to tackle the key issues facing businesses there. Only 27 per cent supported Michael Heseltine and 16 per cent Douglas Hurd.

Gun 'too light'

Park - The Beretta 9 mm automatic, James Bond's favourite gun, is a shade too lightweight for the French air force, the armed forces magazine *Armies of Today* says. It "does not have much stopping power unless one hits a vital organ". (Reuters)

Papers vanish

Mogadishu - Somalia's two government dailies, the Somali-language *Xiddiga Otaar* and its Arabic sister paper, *Najmat Otaar*, have disappeared from the newsstands because of a shortage of ink, newspaper and ink officials said. (AFP)

Correction

Mr John Hardwick, chairman of the York Conservative Association, should have been quoted in yesterday's edition as saying "I like Douglas Hurd", but he is rather seen as a square peg in a square hole, not a square peg in a round hole. He meant that Mr Hurd already held the job for which he was perfectly suited.

MPs endure siege by telephone

AFTER a hectic week spent in Westminster, followed by the Friday surgery talking to constituents, an MP's idea of bliss is to return to some tranquil retreat in the shires for a weekend away from it all (a Staff Reporter writes).

Siege by telephone, however, dashed any such hopes last weekend as campaign generals and officers used all their persuasive powers to woo undecided Tory MPs into their respective camps. A typical example was the Shropshire home of Bill Cash, MP for Stafford and chairman of the backbench European affairs committee, who voted for Mrs Thatcher in the first round.

Michael Heseltine was the first to call at tea-time on Friday, with almost telepathic timing as Mr Cash stepped

through his front door after driving up from London. Later that evening John Major's colonel-in-chief, Norman Lamont, dialled, only to discover that Mr Cash was on his way to discuss the future of Europe inside stately Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire. As one of the world's most exclusive conference centres, communication with the outside world was limited to a single pay-phone that only takes 10p.

Normally, squawking peacocks wake guests at Mr Cash's Elizabethan country house. This Saturday, however, it was an early morning call from Tristan Garel-Jones, Foreign Office minister and Hurd supporter.

Around 8pm, the political columnist Bruce Anderson, who recently resigned

from *The Sunday Telegraph* and is now on the Major team, made a call.

The heavenly silence of Sunday morning was broken by the gravelly voice of Norman Tebbit during breakfast. After lunch the *Birmingham Post* rang for their Midlands MP voting poll. At 5pm James Arbuthnot telephoned "from No 11 Downing Street". The Hurd camp tried again in the middle of Radio 3's appropriate Sunday evening play, *The Tragedy of Dr Faustus*.

Only the political sludgery of *House of Cards* on television at 8pm could guarantee to stop the phone ringing completely. Campaign chiefs were clearly too busy enjoying it to bother any more with the real thing.

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Peers, constituency workers and MEPs still divided

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THREE sections of the Conservative party were divided last night over their choice of candidate to succeed Margaret Thatcher.

John Major emerged as the favourite among the party's constituency associations, but he is not so popular with the Conservative peers or the 32 Tory European MPs. Most of the 450 peers taking the Conservative whip would prefer Douglas Hurd to become prime minister.

Michael Heseltine has acquired near-superman status in European Community circles for his role in Mrs Thatcher's demise while local party officials say that his election could provoke a wave of resignations.

The soundings from MEPs, peers and the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations were reported last night to Cranley Onslow, chairman of the executive of the 1922 committee, as part of the ballot process.

Sir Christopher Ewart, leader of the Tory MEPs, did not name a firm favourite with his colleagues because all three contenders displayed a positive, pragmatic approach to Europe that Mrs Thatcher was thought to lack. Twenty MEPs supported Mr Heseltine in the first ballot against Mrs Thatcher.

The group hopes for an early meeting with the new leader to heal the long-standing rift with Downing Street, preferably before next month's inter-governmental conference in Rome on the next moves to closer political and economic unity.

Sir Christopher said yesterday: "We would be content to work with whichever one is chosen."

John Stevens, MEP for Thames Valley, said: "We can work with any one of these leaders. With the prime minister gone, the anti-European element of the party has suffered a major defeat. They may attempt some sort of salvage operation through John Major, but the way he has been conducting the hard-core negotiations has been reasonably sensible, given the fact that he has been operating in a straitjacket imposed upon him by the prime minister."

"The perception of John Major is significantly less strong than Douglas Hurd and Michael Heseltine. Heseltine, the man who toppled Margaret Thatcher, now has an extraordinary status."

Christopher Jackson, deputy leader of the group, said: "They are three splendid candidates. We would be happy with all of them."

Peter Beazley, MEP for south Bedfordshire, said he supported Mr Hurd.

"Michael Heseltine has done extremely well in pushing this. But he is too emotional. I do not think his judgment is all it should be. And I do not think John Major has sufficient experience."

Lord Lane of Horsell, chairman of the national union executive, reported to Mr Onslow that the constituency associations overwhelmingly support Mr Major, they show little interest in Mr Hurd and are divided over Mr Heseltine. Some associations backed Mr Heseltine, but most doubted whether he could reunite the party because of ill-feeling about his role in bringing down Mrs Thatcher.

The Association of Conservative Peers is reluctant to endorse any one contestant. Lord Home of the Hirsel, the former prime minister, and Viscount Whitelaw have come out in favour of Mr Hurd. Lord Prior, Lord Rippon and Lord Carrington have opted for Michael Heseltine.

Major wins fight for cabinet votes

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has won the battle for cabinet votes in the Tory leadership contest with eight declared supporters, against six for Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and just one for Michael Heseltine.

Mr Major's eight are: David Waddington, home secretary, Norman Lamont, Treasury chief secretary, John MacGregor, Commons leader, Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, John Gummer, agriculture minister, Tony Newton (social security), Peter Lilley (trade), and Michael Howard (employment).

Mr Hurd's six are: Tom King, defence secretary, Chris Patten, environment secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish secretary, Kenneth Clarke (education), William Waldegrave (health), and Peter Brooke (Northern Ireland).

Mr Heseltine's supporter is David Hunt, Welsh secretary. Campaign teams claimed the following backing:

JOHN MAJOR
Ministers: David Mellor, Richard Ryder, Robert Atkins, Francis Maude, Archie Hamilton, Roger Freeman, John Maples, Ian Lang, Gillian Shephard, David Maclean, Eric Forth, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Ian Lang, Robert Jackson.
Ex-ministers: Norman Tebbit, Nicholas Ridley, John Moore, MP's Terence Higgins, Graham Bright, Michael Jack, Tony Favell, William Hague, David Davis, Robert Hughes, James Arbuthnot, Jacques Arnold, Andrew Bowden, Anthony Coombs, Cecil Franks, Jonathan Aitken, Andrew Mitchell, Nicholas Bennett, Barry Field, Ann Winterton, Nicholas Winterdon, Gerry Neale, Bill Walker, John Carlisle, Robert Hayward, Roger King, David Martin, Malcolm Moss, Andy Stewart, Peter Thurnham, John Watts, Paul Marland, Roger Gale.

DOUGLAS HURD
Ministers: John Patten, Tris-

lan Garel-Jones, Lynda Chalker, Nicholas Scott, Virginia Bottomley, Tim Eggar, Alan Howarth, Michael Fallon, David Heathcoat-Amory, Richard Needham, Tony Baldry, Kenneth Carlisle, David Curry, Robert Key, Sir Patrick Mayhew.
Ex-ministers: Peter Bottomley, Sir Giles Shaw, Timothy Raison, Peter Viggers, Richard Luce.
MPs: Tim Yeo, Andrew Mackay, Sir John Wheeler, Sir Peter Hore, Julian Baker, Henry Bellingham, Steve Norris, Ann Widdecombe, Jeremy Hanley, Matthew Carrington, Ian Taylor, Andrew Hunter, Nick Budgen, Andrew Rowe.

MICHAEL HESELTINE
Ministers: David Trippier, Edward Leigh, Sir Wyn Roberts, Ian Grist.
Ex-ministers: Nigel Lawson, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Sir Ian Gilmour, Sir Neil Macfarlane, John Lee, Sir Philip Goodhart, Jerry Wiggin, David Howell, Paul Channon.
MPs: Michael Bates, Keith Hampson, Ivor Seabrook, Sir Eldon Griffiths, Spencer Bax, Anthony Beaumont, Derek Conway, Patrick Cormack, Julian Critchley, Quentin Davies, Tim Devlin, Den Dover, Sir Peter Emery, David Evans, Alan Haselhurst, Barney Hayhoe, Christopher Hawkins, Jerry Hayes, Kenneth Hind, Michael Knowles, David Knox, Michael Latham, Keith Mann, Tony Marlow, Michael Morris, Sir Charles Morrison, Tony Nelson, David Nicholson, Emma Nicholson, Elizabeth Peacock, Barry Porter, William Powell, Sir David Price, Keith Raffan, Nicholas Soames, Robin Squire, Peter Temple-Morris, Malcolm Thornton, Sir Dennis Walters, Charles Wardle, Kenneth Warren and Bowen Wells, Sir Anthony Meyer, Sir Peter Tapsell.

John Carlisle, named in yesterday's Times as a Heseltine supporter, backs Mr Major.



Candidates' backers: David Waddington, a supporter of John Major; Tom King, who is backing Douglas Hurd; and David Hunt, supporting Michael Heseltine

Sleepless nights as ministers ponder the permutations

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine has said that Douglas Hurd would be his own post of Chancellor of the Exchequer. The leading candidates from the ranks of cabinet ministers who have supported him during the campaign are John MacGregor, Leader of the Commons, and Norman Lamont, the Treasury chief secretary. He would also consider the claims of Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, and Chris Patten, environment secretary, both of whom have backed Mr Hurd.

What of Mr Heseltine? In the view of most ministers and MPs, he would make a superb party chairman, bolstered by a seat at the cabinet table. Such an appointment might be considered risky, however, because of the apparent backlash in the constituencies at his part in the downfall of Mrs Thatcher.

The most likely newcomer to a Major cabinet is David Mellor, the arts minister, a good friend and one of his campaign team. Richard Ryder, the paymaster general, and Francis Maude, the Treasury financial secretary, are strong runners for the post of chief whip. Michael



Picture this: preparing for TV coverage of the leadership contest in ITN's makeshift studio. The BBC's arrangements are considered superior

TV teams pitch camp for contest

A TRADITION almost as well established as treachery in the Tory party is the ritual procession of MPs to the two patches of moth-eaten green sward across the road from the Houses of Parliament where the television circus pitches camp during times of political crisis and state ceremony (Michael Horvath writes).

Humble backbenchers are interviewed in the open, whatever the weather, and have to compete against the noise of traffic or pneumatic drills. Cabinet ministers are shepherded into makeshift, see-through studios, known in the trade as "bubbles".

The BBC has by far the best "bubble", a dark green affair raised on stilts and looking somewhat like the commentary box at Wimbledon. The ITN staff, consisting of two glass-fronted boxes stacked one on top of the other, makes little effort to conceal its portable origins.

Threat to quit over winner

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE youngest Conservative local government leader in London threatened last night to resign if Michael Heseltine became leader of the Conservative party.

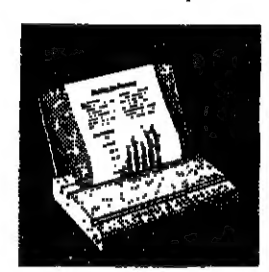
Andrew Boff, aged 32, led the Conservatives to an unexpected victory in Hillingdon, west London, in the May elections. His threat came as it emerged that Tories in the shire districts were lining up solidly behind John Major.

Mr Boff, who is also backing Mr Major, said that Mr Heseltine's promise to carry out a fundamental review of the poll tax risked undoing all the work that Conservative councillors had done to convince voters that it was the fairest way of raising money.

"After going through all the agony of persuading people that it works it would be madness to give it all up now," he said. "If Heseltine is elected I will resign."

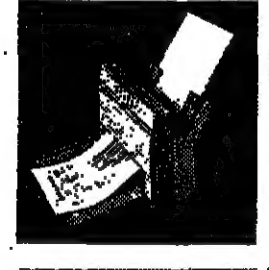
A straw poll conducted by Roy Thomason, chairman of the Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils, found that about three quarters of senior Tory district councillors support Mr Major. Of the 44 Conservative district council leaders in England and Wales questioned by Mr Thomason, 32 declared for Mr Major, ten for Michael Heseltine and two for Douglas Hurd.

Mr Thomason said: "It is quite clear that John Major is carrying the support of the majority of senior Conservatives in district councils."



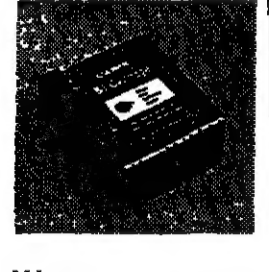
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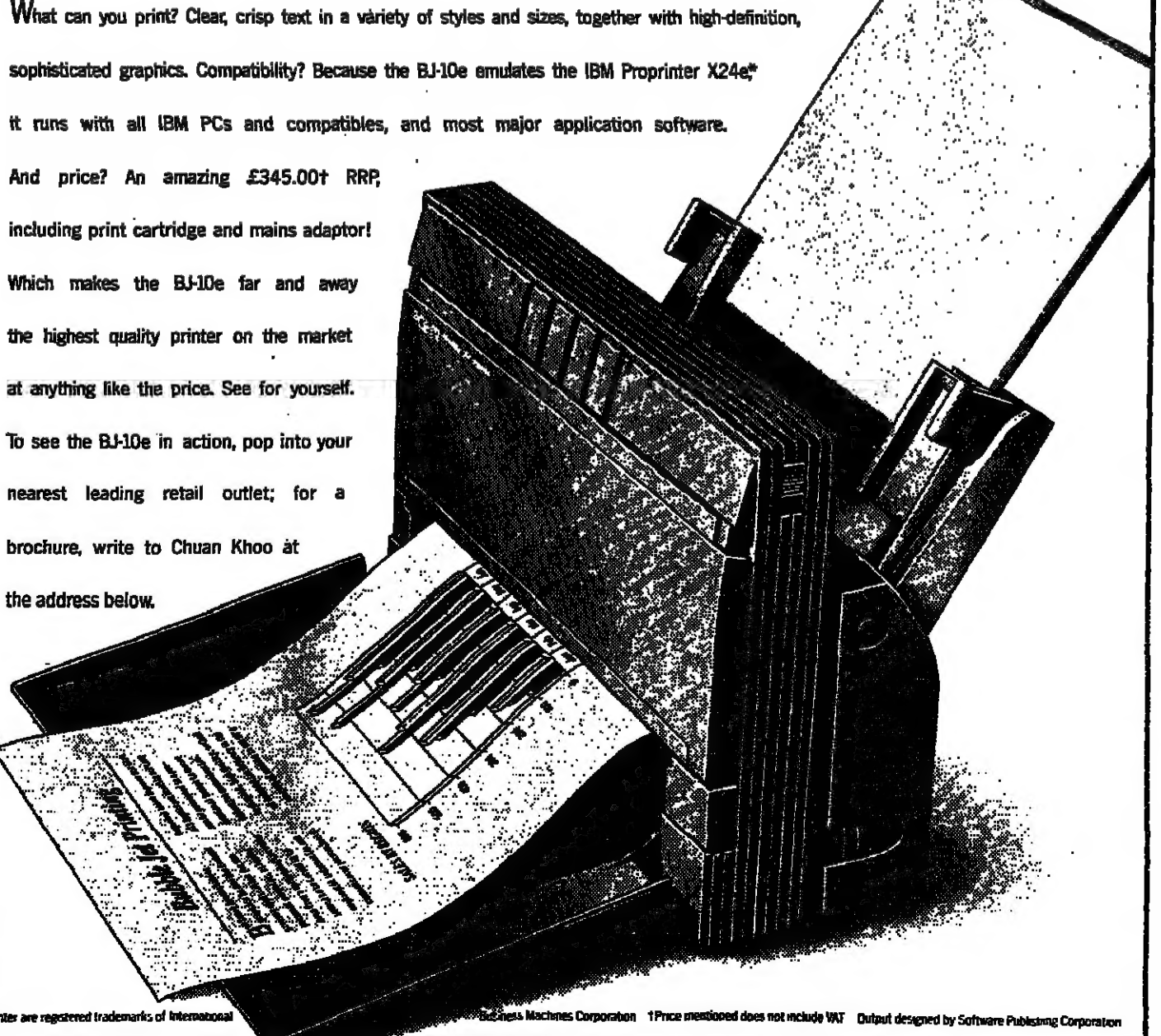
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Time for dignified exit as Whitehall machine gears up

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS MARGARET Thatcher's family and her political confidantes yesterday moved their personal belongings from 10 Downing Street, the Whitehall machine was preparing for the transfer of power to a new prime minister.

Mrs Thatcher has had five days to make the move but, in a general election defeat, the prime minister is given no such time to make a dignified exit from the official London home of the country's leader. The switch of power is usually completed in a few hours, with the belongings of the outgoing prime minister taken unceremoniously out of the back of No 10 as the new occupant arrives by the front door. By tradition, the new occupant allows the defeated prime minister to use Chequers for a few days, while a new home is found.

A conclusive result on the second ballot tonight, or after the third ballot on Thursday, would trigger the start of the constitutional formalities leading to Mrs Thatcher's departure from office. Although she was ready to vacate 10 Downing Street within hours of the result of the ballot, she will not do so.

If there is a final result tonight, Mrs Thatcher will go to Buckingham Palace to resign at 9.40 am tomorrow. If the final result is on Thursday, she will go to see the Queen at 9 am on Friday. The new Tory party leader will follow 45 minutes later, when he will be asked to form a government.

The transfer of power will start when Andrew Turnbull, the prime minister's principal

private secretary, telephones Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, to give him the result of the ballot. They will arrange for Mrs Thatcher to have an audience with the Queen that night or the next morning, when she will formally resign as prime minister.

Once Mrs Thatcher has left Buckingham Palace, Sir Robert will contact the office of the winner and invite him to an audience with the Queen. The only comparable circumstances in which a new prime minister was chosen by a party in office by a system of exhaustive balloting was when Harold Wilson resigned in 1976 and was succeeded by James Callaghan.

Recalling his succession, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff said yesterday: "Once I had been elected, I went round to Labour party headquarters at Transport House and, after I had been there a short time, Sir Martin Charteris (then the

Queen's private secretary) rang and asked when it would be convenient for me to come round."

He and his wife Audrey were driven to Buckingham Palace, where the Queen congratulated him on being elected leader of the party. "She asked if I was ready to form a government and, of course, there was no hesitation on my part. We were then driven to Downing Street."

At No 10, the staff will probably line the corridors and entrance hall to clap and say farewell to Mrs Thatcher as she leaves for the palace. They will also applaud the arrival of her successor.

Lord Callaghan said: "They greet you and applaud when you leave. It is very nice as they all stand in the hall to say goodbye. It is quite emotional, as your lives have been bound together."

The new prime minister will be greeted by the principal private secretary and Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary, who will provide briefings on matters that need a decision. The new prime minister will then begin the task of forming a cabinet with a series of telephone calls to ministers' private offices throughout Whitehall.

Although Mr Callaghan was appointed prime minister within two hours of winning the ballot for the Labour leadership, there is no requirement for the handover to be so swift. In 1953, Sir Winston Churchill resigned at 4.30 pm and Sir Anthony Eden was appointed prime minister the next morning.



Sir Robert arranges the audience with the Queen



On his way: Denis Thatcher yesterday as he and the prime minister prepare to bow out of 10 Downing Street

Fall of the old school tie is nearly complete

By JAMIE DEITMER

Type of Education	Tory MPs
Secondary only	25
Secondary +	26
Secondary & university	69
Public school only	41
Public school +	21
Public school & university	194
Total	376
Oxford	90
Cambridge	76
Other university	97
All universities	263
Eton	43
Harrow	8
Winchester	4
Other	201
All public schools	256

SINCE Lord Thorneycroft's day as a young would-be politician, the selection of Tory candidates and the social composition of the parliamentary Conservative party have changed considerably. No longer can an aspiring candidate from a wealthy or aristocratic background arrive on the doorstep of a local association, offer a wad of parliamentary notes and expect instant adoption.

The recent Thatcherite pledge by John Major to transform Britain into a classless society by the year 2000 would have struck few favourable chords with the Tory MP of the 1940s, or even of the 1960s. Lord Thorneycroft's generation would have been appalled. Mr Major would have been told to pack his bags and join the Labour party.

One of the most striking features of the modern history of the Conservative party has been, in the words of two political scientists, its "extraordinary ability to combine electoral success with social elitism". In 1945, over 80 per cent of Tory MPs had been to public school, more than a quarter to Eton, and half had gone on to Oxford or Cambridge.

The old school and college tie was an important qualification for any aspiring Tory MP. "As a guarantee of success it ranked with sponsorship from the miners' union in the Labour party," Colin Mellors, who studied the social composition of the post-war Conservative party, wrote. They could also be characterised as representing law, land and business.

The cornerstone of the parliamentary party was undoubtedly business rather than the law, with company directors very much to the fore. In the 30 years after the second world war, 245 company directors were elected as Tory MPs.

Conservative cabinets also reflected the aristocratic and old wealth-based nature of the party. Until recently, aristocrats made up an average 37 per cent of Tory cabinets.

The initial signs of change in the party came with Edward Heath's ascendancy. A grammar schoolboy and son of a carpenter and maid had made it to the top job in the party. The "peasants' revolt" - Julian Critchley's disparaging description of Margaret Thatcher's election to the leadership - was a confirmation of the beginnings of a shift in the party.

In 1979 and 1983, the proportion of new Tory MPs who followed what could be called the meritocratic route - outnumbers - outnumbered those who went to public school and Oxford or Cambridge.

bridge. Etonians accounted for only 6 per cent of those intakes. In the past three general elections, more new Tory members have been educated at provincial universities than at Oxford or Cambridge. Not only were the new MPs socially distinct from their predecessors, but many had been involved in politics long before trying to enter the Commons. In 1983, more than half of the intake had local government experience.

The 1987 general election dramatically confirmed the shift when 42 sitting Tory MPs retired, nearly all of them knights of the shires from traditional families. To an astonishing degree, they were replaced by the self-made men and women from the suburbs.

For example in Dorset South, Eton and Oxford educated Viscount Cranborne, heir to the Marquess of Salisbury, was replaced by Ian Bruce, a company director who had attended Chelmsford Technical High School and Bradford University. Sir John Page, of Harrow and Cambridge, was replaced in Harrow West by Robert Hughes, of Spring Grove Grammar School and Harrow College of Technology.

The shift in the parliamentary party should not be exaggerated. About 75 per cent of present Tory MPs went to public school. While there is a former miner and two former skilled workers in the parliamentary party, there is still no manual worker.

Social change has affected Tory cabinets less than the whole parliamentary party. The aristocratic element has declined, but meritocrats have still not found their way into the inner sanctum in anything like the numbers that could have been expected under the carpenter's son and the grocer's daughter.

The presence of meritocrats such as Mrs Thatcher or Mr Tebbit in the higher echelons of the party has helped to alter the public's perception of the Conservatives. Mrs Thatcher, in her defence of grammar schools, said: "People from my sort of background need good schools to compete with children from privileged homes like Shirley Williams and Anthony Wedgwood Benn."

Thorneycroft: selected as MP in simpler times

The lorry now leaving No 10 ...

By NICHOLAS WAIT

JACQUES Delors's relief at Margaret Thatcher's demise might prove a little premature after her removal men turned up at Downing Street yesterday in a van marked "Overseas Moving".

While leafy Dulwich has always been assumed to be the retirement destination after the 11 years in Downing Street, there was speculation that the prime minister might be heading elsewhere.

A source close to the head of the removal firm, Michael Gerson, said that his staff would be taking most of the Thatcher memorabilia to the house in south London, which was bought in 1985. However, he heightened speculation when he added that other items would be going to a secret address.

It was not clear whether Mrs Thatcher was perhaps taking up Dennis Skinner's suggestion that she become governor of a central European bank, or if she was positioning herself to step into M Delors's shoes at the European Commission.

The new occupant of No 10 will find few mementoes of the Thatcher era when he moves in this week. The prime minister's two-man, one-woman removal team spent yesterday packing away her possessions for today's move. These included her papers and the prized china collection. The furniture belongs to the state and will stay put.

Labour leaders sit down to hatch honeymoon spoiler

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party is to try to curtail the political honeymoon of the new prime minister by launching a wave of campaigning next week. Plans to bring forward some of the campaigns already being prepared are expected to be endorsed by the national executive committee tomorrow, the first opportunity that party leaders will have had collectively to consider the resignation of Margaret Thatcher.

It is also expected to agree to intensify preparations for an early election, which the leadership believes to be more likely if Michael Heseltine takes over. As the only candidate not associated with present policies Mr Heseltine, it is felt, might believe he had a better chance of capitalising on the honeymoon period.

According to Labour officials, the all-powerful campaign strategy committee, bringing together members of the shadow cabinet, the NEC and unions, had decided several months ago to switch the attack from Mrs Thatcher to a positive exposition of Labour policies. Many of those plans will be advanced.

Labour believes that it has an ideal opportunity to go on the offensive. The resignation of Mrs Thatcher is portrayed as recognition among Tory MPs that the political agenda has changed. Labour has an al-

ternative for the 1990s mapped out. According to officials, the aim of the campaigns will be strongly to distinguish Labour policies from those of the new Tory leader.

Labour argues that all three contenders have been tainted by their claims to be the true inheritors of the Thatcherite mantle, and that Mr Heseltine's statement was a grave mistake.

The campaigns will focus on the areas where Labour believes it is making the running, particularly education, health and the poll tax - which all three contestants have pledged to review. Labour will claim that it has the only fully worked-out alternative to the replacement of the community charge by a fairer version of the rates.

Labour accepts that the new leader will have an electoral honeymoon period. However, it will attempt to make it as short as possible. It argues that the economic problems that have contributed so heavily to the government's difficulties will be there whoever is elected.

Suggestions of a question-mark over Mr Kinnoch's leadership are dismissed as nonsense by party sources and shadow cabinet members. MPs, however, have expressed disappointment over recent Commons performances.

Life after Downing Street

By ROGER WOOD, PARLIAMENTARY EDITOR

IS THERE life after Downing Street? For most people who reached the age of 65 after 11 years as prime minister, the idea of reaching for the slipper and heading for the fireside would be excitement enough. For anyone but Margaret Thatcher, that is.

Whatever she plans, Mrs Thatcher will not be following former colleagues who have linked resignation with the wish to spend more time with their families. Children and grandchildren can take advantage of a breathing space between now and Christmas but, by the new year, she is likely to be as busy as ever.

There will be no shortage of opportunities for a world statesman of Mrs Thatcher's stature. Former prime ministers normally avoid the

boardrooms of industry and commerce, but her experience would make her a strong contender for any vacancy as president of the World Bank or secretary-general of Nato.

Last week the prime minister was performing splendidly in the Commons debate on the Opposition no-confidence motion when Dennis Skinner, the Labour MP, suggested, tongue firmly in cheek, that she might like to become governor of a European central bank. The response was immediate. "What a good idea. I hadn't thought of that."

So far Mrs Thatcher has not had a chance to give much thought to her future. Nor does she need to. As one of her aides put it yesterday: "I don't think she has made up her mind. But she doesn't have to

leave Downing Street this week and start in a new job on Monday."

He said he would be surprised if she was not invited to undertake lecture tours in the United States, where she would have a keen audience and a great deal of support.

The idea gaining most ground this week is for a Margaret Thatcher foundation. This is a well-known arrangement for former US presidents, although it has never been adopted by a retiring British prime minister. An aide would go no further yesterday than to say: "It is a possibility."

Another idea is that she would be the ideal person to succeed Jacques Delors as president of the European Commission.



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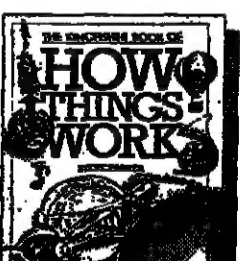
The Modern Ark / Claire Litchfield (Includes: easy-to-make: M4 World International) £3.95



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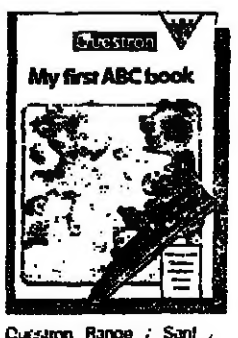


Eyewitness Car (Part of a series) Dorling Kindersley £7.95

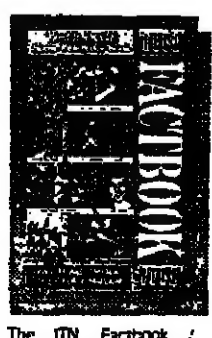


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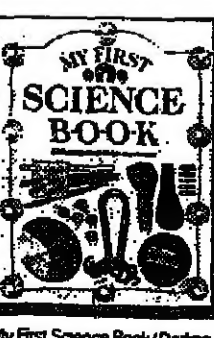
The ITN Factbook / Michael O'Mara Books £17.95



The Top Ten of Everything / Russell Ash £10.99



The Beast of Boleston / Tony Robinson (Other Maid Marian titles available) BBC Books £3.99

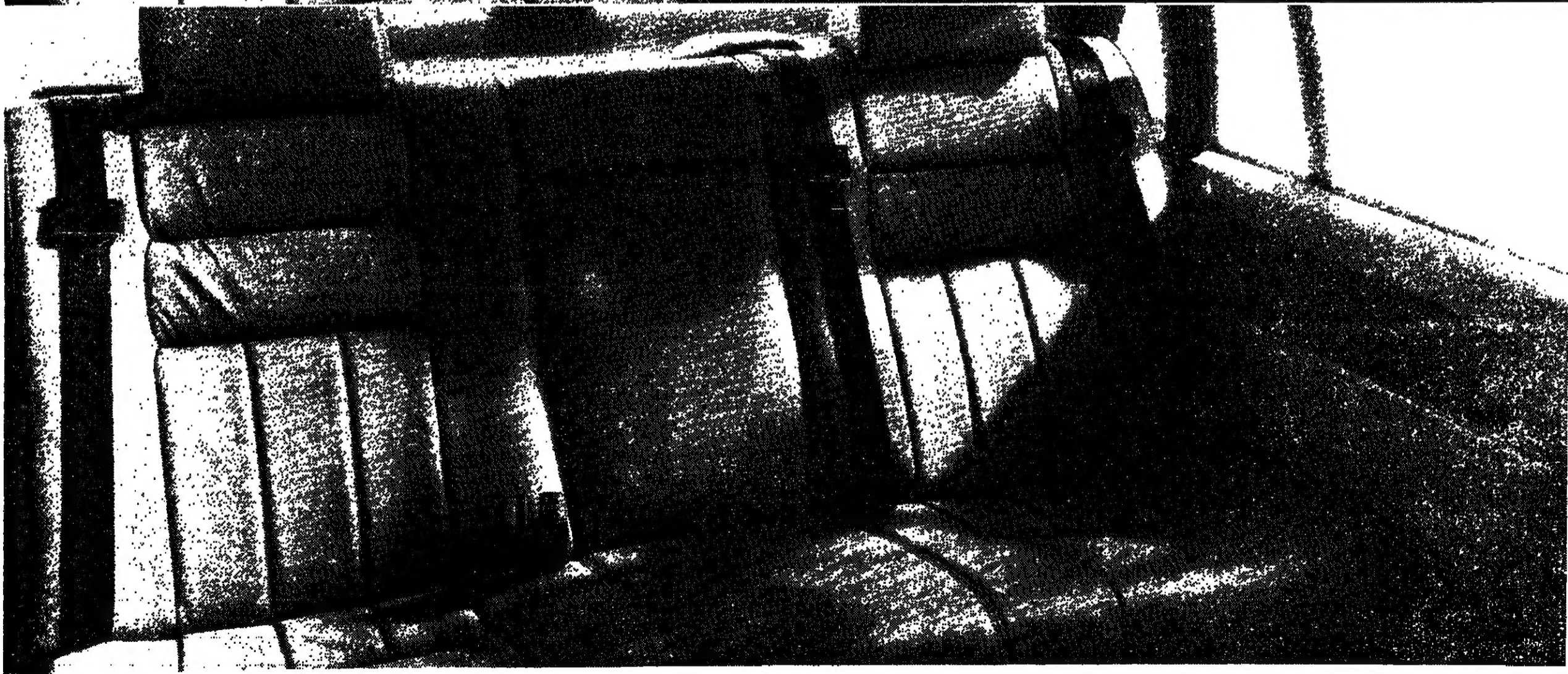
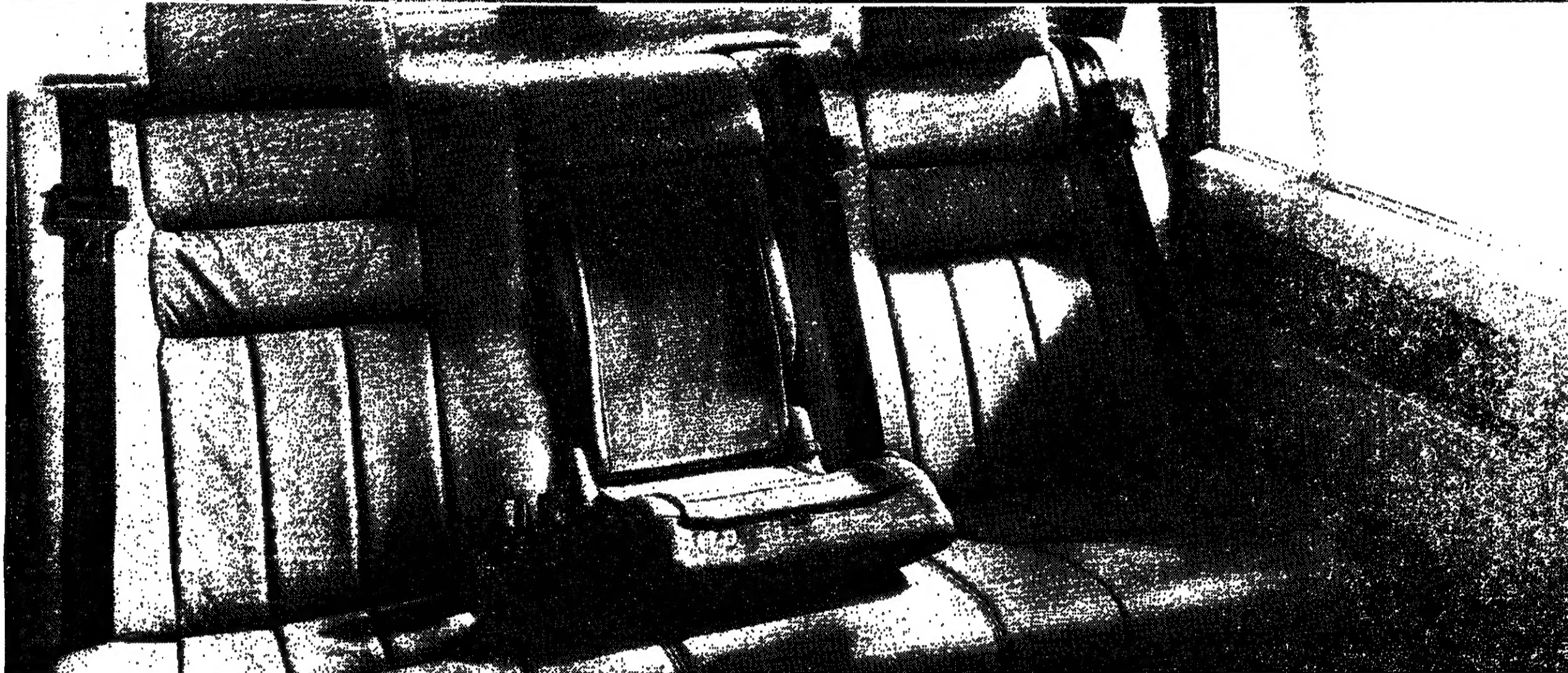


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Pan Am's Frankfurt security chief 'was unfit for job'

By KERRY GILL

THE head of Pan Am's security firm in Frankfurt at the time of the Lockerbie bombing was unfit for the job and was later dismissed, the judicial enquiry into the disaster was told yesterday.

Ulrich Weber, aged 30, was dismissed 24 weeks after the bombing in which 270 people were killed on December 21, 1988. The enquiry in Dumbries was told that Herr Weber's employers discovered a catalogue of irregularities, including the disappearance of DM100,000 (about £35,000) for which he was responsible.

The disclosure came only hours before a television drama documentary on the Lockerbie bombing was to be screened in Britain.

Pan Am said last night that there would be no attempt to stop the British showing although it is understood that senior staff will study its contents keenly. Last night the Crown office in Edinburgh said that officials would watch the programme and that the makers had been advised of the possibility of a contempt

of court while the enquiry was in progress. It is not possible for the Lord Advocate to stop a programme unless he has adequate proof that it contains a blatant contempt.

The enquiry was told yesterday that John Ridd had been Herr Weber's senior at the time. He said that he had been worried about Herr Weber's competence and integrity and his tendency to hire young staff for social rather than professional purposes.

They were cleared out after Herr Weber's dismissal in June last year. Mr Ridd, aged 45, a former major in the Royal Military Police, said he was appointed European co-ordinator for Pan Am's security subsidiary Alert in September, 1988, three months before the bombing.

He said he was responsible for London Heathrow and several European airports, including Frankfurt. Towards the end of 1988 he had become increasingly worried about the competence of Herr Weber. "It was very clear he was mismanaging company

accounts and a considerable amount of money for which he was responsible was missing," Mr Ridd said.

He was asked if there were good reasons why Herr Weber should not have been taken on in the first place. Mr Ridd said: "Our information was not proved, but I heard from a member of our German staff a number of interesting revelations. I was never able to prove any of them."

After Herr Weber was dismissed about six people hired by him were either dismissed or given voluntary redundancy. "There were a number who were very young and who had little or no airline experience. They perhaps suited Herr Weber's purpose socially rather than professionally. They were both young men and young women," he said.

Mr Ridd told the enquiry that he had no recollection of seeing warnings about a Toshiba radio-cassette bomb similar to that which blew up flight 103.

The enquiry continues today.



Model pupils: Seven pupils of Roedean School, Brighton, inspect the scale model of a Jaguar XK 120 that they spent a year to build, working about 11½ hours a week. The battery-driven vehicle, which cost £450 in materials, was created with glass fibre shaped over a sculpted mould, and most of parts came from scrapyards, including Mini steering and Honda motorcycle headlamps. Its Jaguar emblem was a paperweight

Chuffed, chuffed.

Prisoner accused of murder

A 20-YEAR-OLD prisoner murdered his cellmate because he thought that it would help him to secure an early release from jail, Durham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Ken Carter, alleged victim was found hanged by a makeshift noose slung from the window bars of the cell the two men shared with a third prisoner at Durham jail.

David Robson, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Carter forced 19-year-old Darren Brook to write a suicide note then stand on a chair and put his head through the noose. While the third prisoner sat in a corner and covered his head with a towel, the chair was kicked away.

Mr Robson said that Carter then left Brook dangling for 45 minutes before raising the alarm. Earlier, Carter allegedly told the other prisoner, Jason Rochford, aged 17: "If your cellmate tops himself you get out - act so you crack up, and you get out."

Carter, of Peel Street, Thornaby-on-Tees, Cleveland, denies murdering Brook, of Shiremoor, Tyne and Wear, in January. The court was told that he later bragged about the killing, telling Rochford: "You should have looked at his face, you would have got a buzz off it."

Mr Robson said that Carter bullied Brook during the three days that they shared a cell. The suicide note on Brook's body was suspicious because it failed to mention his parents, and made constant reference to his cellmates' innocence. It said: "It's my fault, and my fault only, that this has happened. Carter and Rochford are the only two real friends I have in here."

The case continues today.

Devolution prospects brighten

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE prospects for the government's initiative on devolution for Northern Ireland brightened yesterday with an optimistic assessment from Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Charles Haughey, prime minister of the Irish Republic.

Speaking after a 20-minute meeting with Mr Brooke during the launch of a cross-border waterways project in Co. Cavan, Mr Haughey said that he would be disappointed if there was no progress within six months. Mr Brooke said he believed the going had become easier in recent weeks.

Yesterday's talks came in advance of an Anglo-Irish conference meeting in Belfast on Friday at which the two governments are expected to discuss the initiative.

Until now, the two Unionist parties and Mr Brooke have insisted that only after "substantial progress" had been made on discussions between the parties in Northern Ireland could talks begin between the Unionists and the Irish government.

Dublin and the Social Democratic and Labour Party have objected to that formulation, fearing that Unionists could prolong the internal negotiations indefinitely.

There is speculation that with the deadlock apparently immovable, Mr Brooke may be looking for agreement on less specific terms. One possibility is that it will be agreed in advance that he, as secretary of state, will decide when North-South talks should begin.

Brigadier Angus Ramsay, aged 44, was appointed commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment yesterday.

Longer child visits for jailed women

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN prisoners are to be allowed to keep their children with them all day twice a month under a pioneering project to be launched at Holloway prison, the country's largest jail for women.

The initiative, the first of its kind in Britain, will enable children to spend a whole day with their mothers and use the prison swimming pool and gymnasium, and its arts and crafts and education facilities.

At first, the project, to be launched on January 13, will concentrate on women prisoners serving three or more years, and on children up to the age of 11. The children will be allowed in initially for two whole days a month.

However, if successful, it may be extended to all prisoners, including those on remand, and to older children. A similar project is being investigated at Styal prison in Cheshire.

At present, only babies can stay with their mothers in prison and, even then, only up to the age of nine months or (in the case of Askham

Grange) 18 months. Children, on the whole, have the same access and hours as other visitors, with occasional dispensation to stay a little longer.

The move comes about largely as a result of a campaign by the Howard League and in particular by the barrister Helena Kennedy.

Earlier this year she made television programme, *Mothers behind Bars*, with a producer, Polly Bride, for Channel 4. A showing of the film, which featured Bedford Hill prison in New York and its arrangements for allowing child visits, was arranged for prison authorities and the Home Office.

Ms Kennedy welcomed the news of the Holloway project. "It is excellent. I am thrilled. Things always happen when people have a bit of vision. This is not something that has been suggested by the Home Office. The initiative has been suggested by the prison authorities and the staff themselves, the people on the ground."

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Hitlist seized in Dyfed ambush 'included cabinet'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO alleged IRA terrorists who walked into a police ambush as they recovered arms from caches on the Welsh coast had a hitlist that included the entire cabinet, a court was told yesterday.

Their arrest last December after six weeks' observation led anti-terrorists squad officers to a flat in Lanton, Bedfordshire, where cleverly forged Home Office security passes were found with more terrorist equipment.

The story of the police operation that led to the arrest of Liam O'Duibhir, aged 28, from Dublin, and Damien McComb, aged 22, from Belfast, on cliffs overlooking St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, was outlined amid intense security at the Central Criminal Court.

The two men, who were smartly dressed and smiled at friends in the public gallery, denied conspiring with other persons unknown to cause explosions in the UK on diverse days before December 22 last year.

In his opening address, John Nutting told the jury: "The Crown say in the autumn and winter of 1989 these two men were engaged in the preparatory stages of a bombing campaign which, if it had not been so successfully frustrated by the police and three members of the public, would no doubt have endangered the lives of people here in England or at the very least caused serious injury to property."

Anti-terrorist and local police found a "significant cache of weapons, ammunition and terrorist equipment" in two places on the cliffs above St Bride's Bay.

"What was certain was that all the equipment bore the hallmarks of Provisional IRA material," he said.

Police recovered six handguns, three rifles, a shotgun and more than 1,300 rounds

of ammunition, five hand grenades and 40 kilos of Semtex explosive. There was also enough sophisticated equipment to detonate several car bombs and conventional bombs which could be detonated by time-delay devices of up to 24 days.

Police lay in wait for the return of the alleged terrorists after officers had largely substituted their cache in the two hiding places, nicknamed "little and large".

After six weeks, on December 21, a Ford Escort bought in a false name by one of the men stopped in a car park near by. Mr Nutting said officers watching from a darkened café saw two men — allegedly the defendants — get out, visit the two caches and prepare to unload equipment from them into the vehicle.

False items of identification were allegedly found on Mr McComb and Mr O'Duibhir including four false passports in different names with corresponding birth certificates, and more than £1,500 in cash. Mr Nutting said that a telephone number found on one of them led detectives to a rented flat in Dallow Road, Lanton.

"There, hidden under the sink unit, detectives found further items of terrorist equipment: ammunition, radio equipment for the explosion of bombs, more false identification in other names and a list of men and women prominent in public life in this country, including a full list of the cabinet and the names of a number of middle-ranking and junior ministers," he said.

"There was a list of army officers as well as ordnance survey maps of areas of military significance."

Among prominent names and addresses on their hitlist were those of the Sainsbury family. Details of politicians' interests and job descriptions

were also recorded. Most of the equipment at Lanton bore striking similarities to the property recovered at Pembroke, he added.

During the search of the flat after the arrests, police found under the kitchen sink 119 rounds of 9mm automatic pistol ammunition, two packages containing 106 shotgun cartridges, three blocks of explosive, a complete radio control system for operating bombs, two walkie-talkies and more items of false identification.

Mr Nutting said the two caches were discovered after information from local people, including a man going for a swim and two national park wardens.

Craig Mabe, a footpath warden with the Pembrokeshire National Park, described how he and a colleague found one of the hidden caches while replacing a signpost. They had noticed wires in the ground and when they began digging a hole for the sign they had unearthed magnets and microswitches.

The trial continues today.

MEPs call for trawler safety measures

By KERRY GILL

SCOTTISH, French and Irish Euro-MPs demanded yesterday that submarine activities be changed following the loss of the trawler *Antares* and its four crew off the west coast of Scotland last week.

The *Antares* sank after HMS *Trenchant*, a hunter-killer submarine, fouled her fishing nets while on a training exercise and dragged her underwater.

The MEPs have called for submarines to travel through fishing grounds on the surface, or for the grounds to be closed and fishermen compensated when submarines are underwater. Henry McCubbin, MEP for Scotland North-East, said: "We want the Fisheries Commissioner to act to protect the fishing fleets. After the *Antares* tragedy, we have to make sure that these men are the last victims of the cold war."

Clyde fishermen are considering a blockade of the Faslane submarine base on the Gare Loch unless they get new safety assurances from the Ministry of Defence. They have asked for a meeting with Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary.

The navy plans to start raising the *Antares* today.



Jill Morrell, friend of John McCarthy, in Downing Street yesterday as, on the eve of his fifth birthday in captivity in Beirut, she delivered a petition urging more government action over hostages. The Foreign Office said yesterday it has reason to believe that Jack Mann, aged 76, missing in Beirut since May 1989, is still alive.

Children of eight 'in attacks on teachers'

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as eight are guilty of physical attacks on teachers, it was reported yesterday at the launch of a programme to help education staff to cope with violence.

The Health and Safety Commission published its guide after learning that teachers were three times more likely than other workers to be threatened with violence. One in seven was found to suffer verbal abuse in any week, and one in 200 to be assaulted.

The guide, dealing with violence by pupils and parents, advises teachers to stay calm in a confrontation and to speak slowly so as to avoid a heated argument.

Roger Bibbings, the assistant director of the Trades Union Congress, said that among recent cases of violence reported to the TUC were several kicks to the head for a teacher separating two nine-year-olds in a playground fight.

Business should contribute more towards the cost of higher education, and incentives to do so will increase in the 1990s, Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, said yesterday.

Central TV plans to shed 467 more jobs in new year

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CENTRAL Independent Television, suffering from a "crippling" increase in the government's exchequer levy as well as an unprecedented decline in advertising revenue, is to shed 467 jobs early next year in an effort to cut costs before the ITV franchise auction.

The Midlands station, which has reduced its staff by 500 to 1,500 in the past two and a half years, is the latest ITV company to announce further redundancies, with the 1990s Broadcasting Act's stipulation that Channel 3 licences are to be awarded to the highest cash bidder foremost in its mind.

The job cuts, beginning in February, come two weeks after the merged British Sky Broadcasting announced "significant staff reductions", expected to hit at least 700 of a combined Sky/BSS staff of 1,400. Last month, Thames Television laid off 297 employees, the last part of a 33 per cent reduction in staff to 1,500. The BBC, which axed 1,400 support staff jobs in September, is expected by broadcasting unions to announce more than 2,000

redundancies in network television next year.

Leslie Hill, Central's managing director, said yesterday that he expected other ITV companies to take similar action, given the government's requirement that 25 per cent of all programmes must be made by independent producers by 1993.

He also blamed over-capacity of studio space, which has led to reduced prices for ITV-made programmes, and changes in the ITV network, which have removed the right of guaranteed programme supply, resulting in a decreasing and unreliable production workload. Slow growth in ITV-made programme commissioning by satellite and cable channels as well as more significant competition from a merged and strengthened BSkyB was also cited by Mr Hill.

Central, the second largest ITV company, whose programmes include *Spitting Image*, *Inspector Morse* and *Boon*, recently reported a 40 per cent decline in half-yearly profits to £6.78 million, blamed in part on a 125 per cent increase in exchequer levy payments under a system introduced last January, and a 10 per cent rise in Channel 4 subscription.

The 467 job cuts will affect all areas of employment, but mostly technicians in the Birmingham studios. More than 300 of the redundancies, compulsory if voluntary terms are not agreed, will occur at Central Television Facilities, which is losing money because of little outside business for its studios. Mr Hill said that redundancy payments would be well above the statutory minimum.



Hill: similar cuts expected from other companies

Enthusiasm remains for the company car

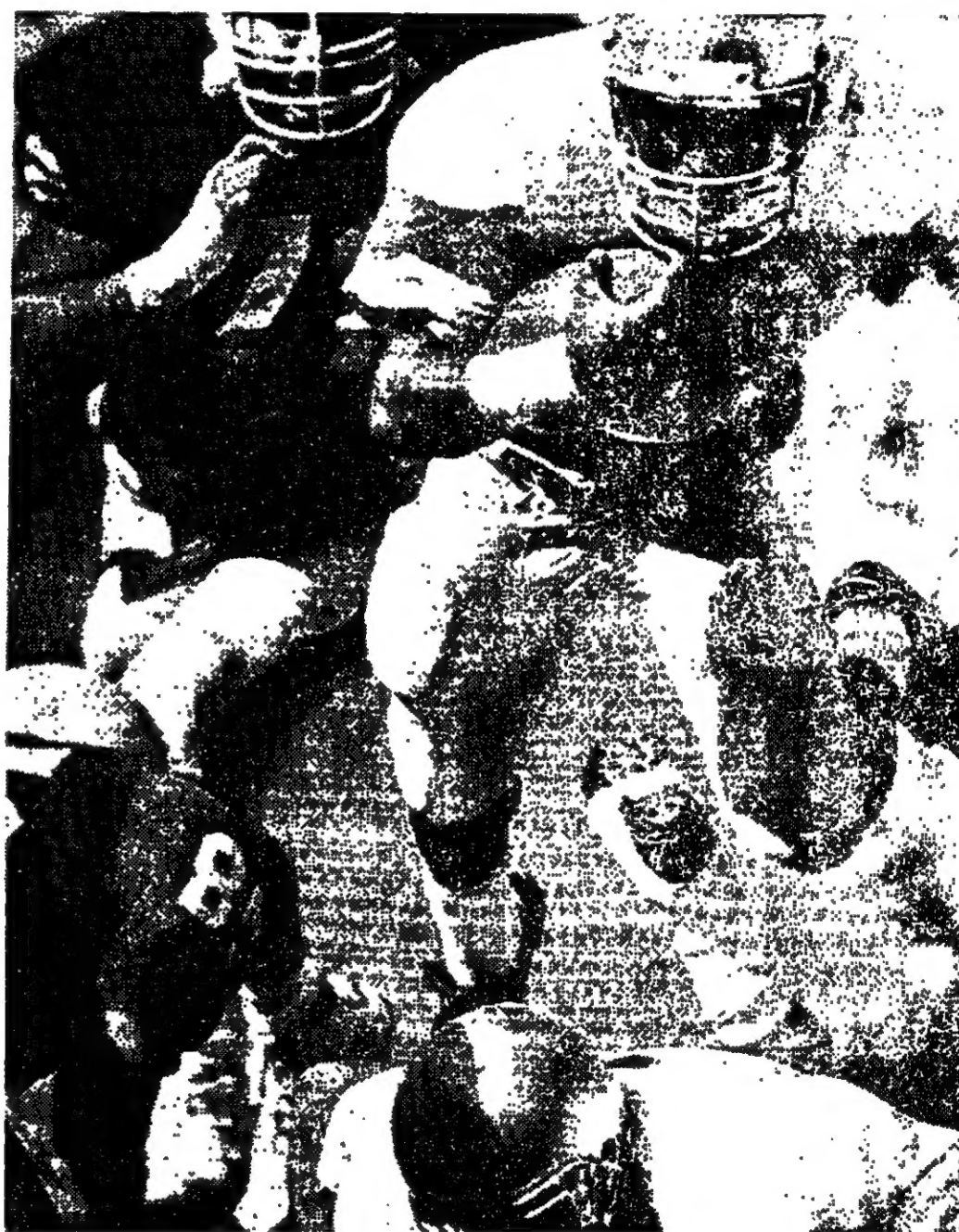
By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

EXECUTIVES provided with a Jaguar Sovereign car or its equivalent by an employer would need a salary rise of £14,000 a year to compensate for its withdrawal, according to a survey published yesterday.

The report, by Incomes Data Services, says that, while there have been some big increases in the tax charges for company cars over the past four years, they have not diminished the enthusiasm of executives and their employers for what is seen as a prime perk. IDS says that, although car scale charges since 1987-8 have been increased by an

average of 220 per cent, this has had little or no effect on company car policies.

In fact, because the number of middle managers receiving a company car is still growing, the only room for expansion at senior levels is in the area of the second or third company car, IDS says. Most senior executives have one company car and one-fifth of companies give chief executives a second car, while one-sixth do the same for directors. "While the tax efficiency of company cars has undoubtedly been diminished in recent budgets, the tax structure is still advantageous," IDS says.



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Duke wins court battle on working classes

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE working classes are not obsolete and Westminster city council is under a continuing obligation to house them in flats designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens on land leased from the Duke of Westminster in Piccadilly, it was decided in the High Court yesterday.

The duke, Britain's wealthiest man, won a ruling from Mr Justice Harman that the council should not be allowed to offer flats on the Page Street estate for sale to anyone except sitting tenants qualified under the government's right-to-buy legislation.

The judge ruled that a clause in the lease granted by the second Duke of Westminster in 1937 that the properties should be used as "dwellings for the working class" and for no other purpose was "as valid today as when it was made". He said

there had been no evidence that the phrase "working class" was obsolete.

The fact that Parliament no longer used the term in housing legislation did not deprive the words of meaning in ordinary English. Though judges in previous cases had complained that the phrase was imprecise or inappropriate, they had always been able to reach decisions.

The judge, an old Etonian who served in the Coldstream Guards, said that he was not called upon to determine who was working class or what constituted a lower income group. "It is a dry, bare, legal issue," he said.

He accepted that John Colyer, QC, for Westminster council, had shown that the phrase "working class" had been almost completely excised from housing legislation, but held that this did not make the covenant in the lease void for uncertainty.

The judge said that Westminster council could apply to the Lands Tribunal to have restrictive terms in the lease varied, but not the positive duty it imposed to keep and use the dwellings for housing the working classes.

He accepted the council's contention that the grant of the land was not a gratuitous gift or given for merely nominal consideration, since the council was obliged to repair and insure the flats.

He remarked, however, that it would be unbecoming for the council to "blow hot and cold" and seek now to set aside the terms under which it had accepted the second duke's generosity in 1937. "I rather doubt that such an application is intended," he said.

After the ruling, Lady Porter, leader of Westminster council, said in a prepared statement: "We are extremely disappointed that the opportunities for home ownership on this estate have been restricted. We will consider in detail what the judge said before coming to a view about whether to appeal."

The duke's Grosvenor Estate office issued a statement saying that it was pleased that vacant flats on the estate would continue to be available for rent to low income families and added: "We hope that the Westminster city council will accept the court's decision and that the matter can now be regarded as settled."

The council was ordered to pay the bulk of the estimated £50,000 costs of the three-day hearing.

The judge ruled that the duke should pay one third of the costs relating to his counter-claim against the council, which was partly unsuccessful.

City firms start fund for law schools

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

BIG law companies in the City of London are clubbing together to raise £1 million to help ease the financial problems faced by university and polytechnic law schools and colleges.

The firms have set up the City Solicitors' Education Trust charity, to collect and allocate donations among law schools. Until now, law firms have given money individually to law schools, either by sponsoring a chair, a lecture or by funding a research post. In return, they have had their name attached to the post.

This is the first joint initiative by firms, and the first attempt to ensure that funds are given where they are needed most. The idea is being watched keenly by the Law Society, which is considering setting up a legal resources trust to which firms could contribute and which would support work in law centres or other legal projects.

Richard Youard, administrator of the education trust, said: "We have written to more than 100 firms and asked for contributions of some £300 per each article clerk they take a year." Only one-third of the firms have replied so far, but £300,000 has been raised for the academic year starting next September. Some 50 law schools have applied for funds, and applications will be considered by a committee.

Dispute over decaying masterpiece

A disagreement over urgent repairs is said to be jeopardising plans to return the St Pancras station building to its Victorian splendour, John Young reports

THE future of the St Pancras station building in London, Sir George Gilbert Scott's Victorian Gothic masterpiece, is threatened by delays in carrying out urgent repairs. Some experts believe that plans to reopen it as a luxury hotel depend on work starting immediately.

The property group Speyhawk has shelved plans for a £10 million restoration project but is anxious to start repairing the decaying roof and fabric, which might not survive a hard winter. However, British Rail Property Board, which owns the building, has decided to commission a survey. Speyhawk believes that would waste more time and cost money that would be better spent on repairs.

During the modernist frenzy of the 1960s St Pancras was a candidate for demolition as a useless monstrosity. So radically has the climate of opinion changed that it is now listed Grade I and regarded as the most spectacular example of Victorian pomp.

The building opened in 1873 as the Midland Grand hotel and until its closure in 1935, a victim of strained times, epitomised the leisure and luxurious aspects of the railway age. Until five years ago BR used part of the building for offices.

A year ago, after protracted planning arguments, Camden finally accepted proposals by Speyhawk to recreate its 19th-century splendour. After refurbishment it was planned the hotel would reopen as the Midland Grand, providing travellers and tourists with a taste of the days when the steam engine, not the jet engine, ruled the roost.

The proposals included

shops, a nightclub, a "gentlemen's club" and three theme restaurants, including a brasserie of the sort to be found at railway stations on the Continent. The building would be let to Speyhawk on a long lease and managed by one of the large hotel groups.

Speyhawk's proposals were widely applauded, and the company insists that it still intends to go ahead. In spite of the depressed property market, it sees the prospects for the hotel sector as bright and is confident of a continuing demand for first-class facilities in the capital.

David Herring, managing director of Speyhawk Projects, said that the delay had been caused by the plans of a rival consortium for the comprehensive redevelopment of the whole King's Cross area, including a new passenger terminal for the Channel tunnel rail link.

"If we were to go ahead now and open the hotel in, say, two years' time, our first customers could find themselves bang next door to the biggest building site in Europe," Mr Herring said. "Frankly, we don't think all the noise and disruption would be very good for business."

"All we want to do is to dovetail our plans to fit in with whatever is going to happen next door, but in the meantime we want to make sure that the St Pancras building is looked after properly, and I have to say we are very concerned about its present state."

"We have made an offer to British Rail to take over the management of the building and to undertake urgent repairs. Our discussions are still continuing, but they want to spend money on a survey and we believe it



Gothic grandeur: Graham Tritt, building surveyor for British Railways Property Board, inspects the St Pancras station hotel's magnificent stairway

should be spent on repairs. We believe the right commercial approach is to let us go ahead, which would take the liability off BR's shoulders. The immediate priority is not to delay urgent maintenance any longer."

Douglas Leslie, the property board's managing director, said that he understood Speyhawk's frustration but

he would not expect the company to sign an agreement until it knew exactly what it was taking on.

He too was very concerned about the condition of the building. The survey was to ensure that it was not a danger to the public, to determine what urgent remedial work was needed, and to decide where to

relocate the ground-floor booking hall.

"We are trying to work out an arrangement whereby Speyhawk will take over as soon as possible, and which will relieve British Rail of its responsibility," Mr Leslie said. He was confident the matter would be resolved by spring, and added: "I won't allow it to go beyond that."

Careless policeman crashed into house

A young couple woken by a crash in the night found a police patrol car in their lounge, Colchester magistrates' court was told yesterday. Mike Tyler, an accountant, and Diane Barnard, aged 23, helped the two policemen out of the car. The driver said: "We saw lights and we were going back to investigate. I was reversing up the road and I lost control."

Constable David Jones, 35, was fined £100, with £70 costs, after pleading guilty to careless driving on September 25 last year.

Poison fumes

Clouds of toxic smoke were given off as firemen brought a chemical fire under control yesterday. Drums containing nitric acid and a cyanide solution burst open as the fire engulfed a glass factory on the Shire Hill industrial estate in Saffron Walden, Essex. Neighbouring properties were evacuated as soon as the fire was discovered; later, other downwind properties also had to be cleared.

Player fined

John Durnin, an Oxford United football player, was fined a total of £1,000 and ordered to pay £550 compensation for headbutting two teenagers in Witney market square, Oxfordshire. The town's magistrates were told he attacked them, pushing one through a window, after a nightclub brawl. Durnin, aged 25, of Thorney Leys, Witney, admitted two charges of causing actual bodily harm.

£5 bungalow

A Devon man has donated his £110,000 bungalow as a prize in a Christmas raffle for the NSPCC charity. Tickets are £5. The home in Kings-teignton comes with a hair-dressing salon that makes about £7,000 a year. Bernard Marshall, aged 41, has bought a plot of land in the village to build a new home.

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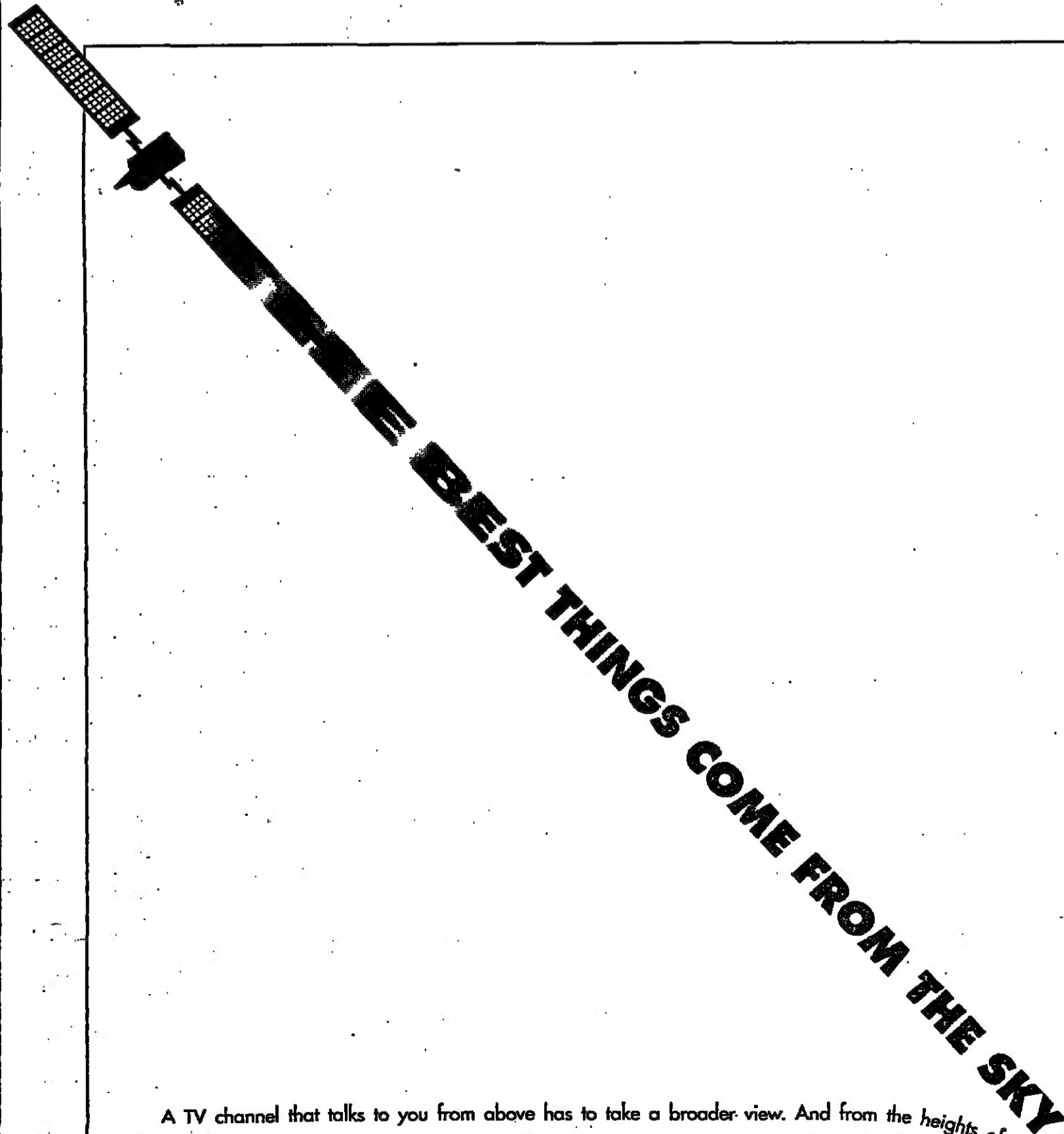
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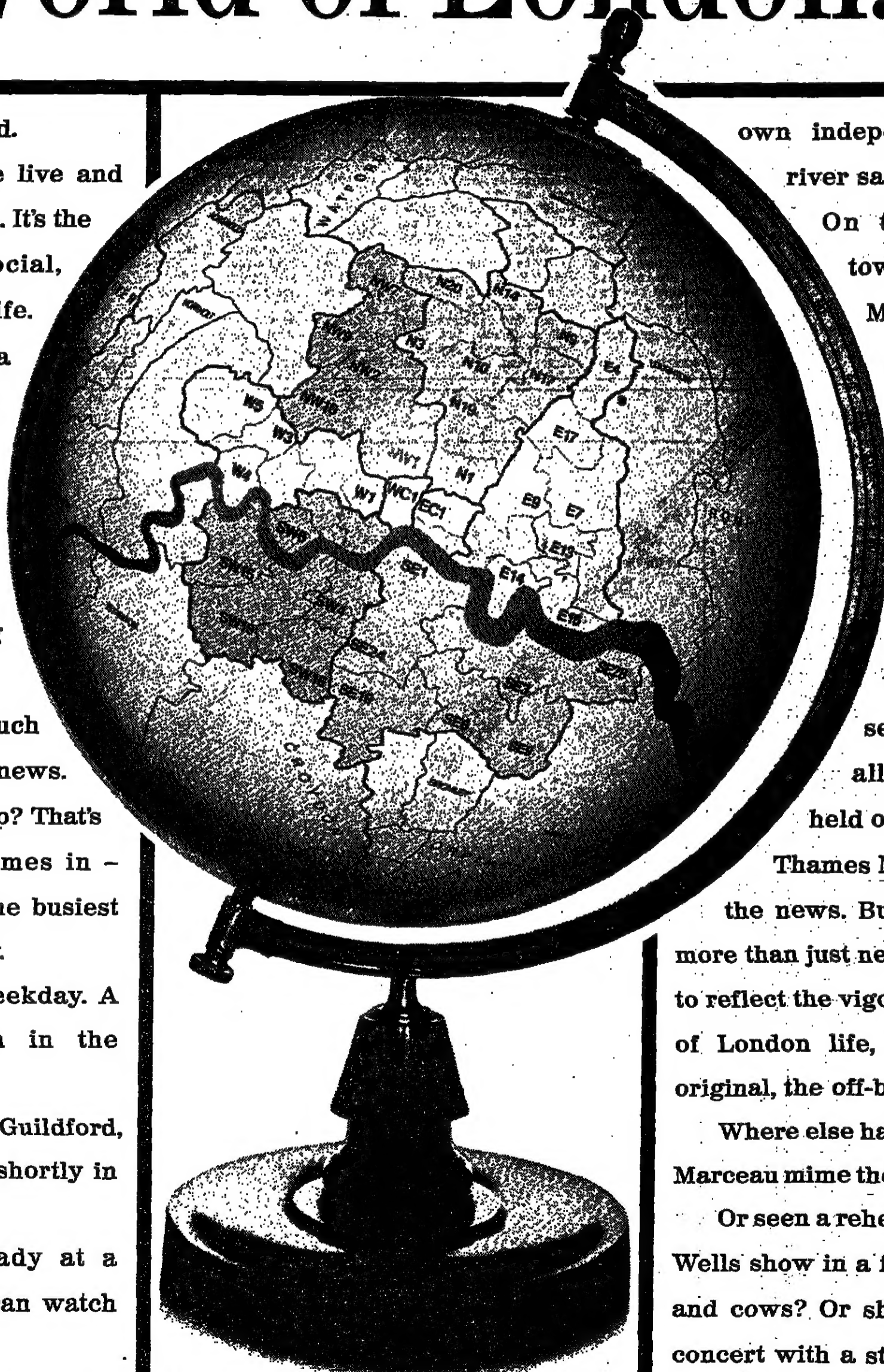
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Court clears ground for claim over killing of daughter

By DAVID YOUNG

THE Court of Appeal has ruled that two men, both living under new identities, should face a civil action for damages brought by a mother who claims that they killed her daughter aged 16, despite one of them having already been tried and acquitted of her murder in a criminal court.

The court has allowed Gail Halford to bring the civil action against Michael Brookes and his stepson, Fitzroy Brookes, over the death of Lynn Siddons in April 1978.

The judges overturned a High Court decision last year that the action could not go ahead because it was outside legal time limits.

The action, claiming damages for battery on behalf of Lynn Siddons's estate, is expected to be heard in a year's time and is believed to be the first such action. It also sets a precedent in that one of the men, Fitzroy Brookes, has already been tried and acquitted of murder in a criminal court.

Michael Brookes, the stepfather, has never been charged. Father and stepson live in Peterborough and have changed their names, although the writs have been served in their former names.

Both men deny the allegations and claim that Mrs Halford is not entitled to damages. They have been refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Fitzroy Brookes was acquitted of murder in November 1978. The trial judge said that there was scientific evidence to support his case, because he was very small and in an expert's opinion could not have overcome Lynn without assistance.

In 1985, Mrs Halford consulted new solicitors and was advised that she could bring a

civil action. She issued a writ in 1987.

In yesterday's main judgment, Lord Justice Russell, sitting with the Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, and Lord Justice Nourse, ruled that Mr Justice Schiemann had misdirected himself in the High Court last year in finding that the seven-year delay in bringing the action was Mrs Halford's fault.

Lord Justice Russell said that at the date of the jury's verdict there could be no doubt that everyone concerned with the case "must have understood that one or other of both of the defendants had been responsible for the attack on the girl that had caused her death. No other person could conceivably have been involved."

The judge told how Fitzroy Brookes first confessed to attacking Lynn with a knife when they were out walking.

He changed his story later and said that his stepfather had stabbed the girl and that he was responsible only for superficial wounds. In the summer of 1979, a bundle of clothing and a knife were found buried in the garden of a house where the stepfather had lived. They were handed to the police, but were unfortunately lost, the judge said.

Lord Justice Russell said that Mrs Halford had done all that could reasonably be expected of her and it would not be right to regard any part of the delay as being her responsibility.

Lord Justice Nourse agreed and said there was a "reasonable prospect" of getting damages from one or both men.

Lord Donaldson also agreed. He said that Mrs Halford did not know that the injuries inflicted on her daughter gave rise to a civil action for damages.

He added that the case was based on "stark and tragic facts". Lord Donaldson said: "There is no necessary inconsistency between pursuing the claim against Fitzroy Brookes and his acquittal on a charge of murder. Quite apart from the fact that the standard of proof required is different, a lower standard being required in civil proceedings, an allegation that he caused the death of Lynn Siddons is not an essential element in a civil claim."

Mrs Halford, of Rainham Gardens, Alvaston, Derby, claims that the men attacked

Lynn near the Trent and Mersey Canal in Barrow upon Trent, Derbyshire. The teenager's body was found strangled and with 40 stab wounds.

After yesterday's judgment, Mrs Halford said: "It is a great decision. It is the biggest breakthrough we have had. It is the answer to our dream."

Mrs Halford, who sat through the three-day Court of Appeal hearing earlier this month with her mother, Mrs Florence Siddons, added: "We have got to remember that we have only won a battle, not the war. We have still got a long fight ahead."

Mrs Siddons, who has been a prime mover in a long campaign to have fresh criminal charges brought, said: "At last we have seen the glimmer of light, a glimmer of justice, at the end of a long tunnel. This action will not bring Lynn back, but it is only fair to carry on the fight in her memory."

Jane Deighton, solicitor for the family, said that the plan was for the compensation claim to be heard in the High Court next autumn.



Plea for peace: Father Timothy Radcliffe, OP, provincial of the Dominicans in Great Britain (left), and Brian Wicker at yesterday's launch of the document

Church leaders demand peace talks in Gulf

By ALICE THOMSON

OVER a hundred theologians and church leaders have endorsed a document denouncing war in the Gulf and calling for a peaceful negotiated solution. *Just War in the Gulf?* examines the claim that an offensive action in the Gulf would comply with teaching on the just war and launches an initiative against a possible outbreak of hostilities.

"There has been a certain dignified leisure and mastery of understatement from people in Britain who oppose war in the Gulf, it is time we took action", the Right Rev Victor Guzzelli, Roman Catholic Bishop in East London, said at a press conference in London yesterday.

The main points of the document were taken from a letter Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, wrote to *The Times* on November 8. His letter said that military action could be justified only if all other avenues had been tried and if military action did not cause damage out of all proportion to the original injustice.

The document states that last resort should truly mean last resort and that sanctions are more likely to produce a lasting peace. Not even a

United Nations Security Council resolution would be sufficient authority for war if the other conditions for a just war were absent.

Arabs, they said, were asking why it was only now that the militarism of President Saddam Hussein was being opposed, when for years he had fought a war against Iran and committed atrocities against his own people.

"Our conclusion is that a military offensive against Iraq by predominantly Western forces would not promote a just peace. The environmental, human and psychological damage caused by a war would last for generations."

The document's signatories include eight Anglican bishops, Cardinal Gordon Gray, former Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, and eight other Catholic bishops.

Brian Wicker, vice-president of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain, said there should be some gesture to improve the atmosphere and that the public were entitled to know what the allies' war aims were before bodies started coming back.

Gulf reports, pages 12 and 13 Letters, page 19



Gail Halford: "Biggest breakthrough"

Fans 'forced back into fatal crush'

POLICE pushed back football supporters trying to climb the perimeter fence to escape the fatal crush on the Hillsborough terraces, a Liverpool fan told the inquest into the deaths of 95 people yesterday.

Officers manning gates in the fence kept shutting them after allowing fans out onto the safety of the pitch, Ross Wright, a member of the Devon and Cornwall Liverpool Supporters Club, said.

Mr Wright, of King's Nympton, Devon, broke down in tears at the Sheffield hearing as he recalled watching from a pen on the Leppings Lane terrace as fans tried to escape.

He said some people started climbing the fencing between the terrace and the pitch. "As they were coming over, police officers were pushing them back again," Mr Wright said that happened well after a police officer had run onto the pitch to stop the Liverpool-Nottingham Forest FA Cup semi-final because of turmoil

at the Liverpool end of the ground.

He disagreed with earlier evidence on the sixth day of the inquest that most Liverpool fans had been carrying alcohol as they made their way to the stadium on April 15 last year. "There were a couple of people happy, but I wouldn't say they were really drunk," he said. It was a semi-final. Liverpool were on their way to another cup final. Everyone was just happy and enjoying it."

Police Sergeant Philip Lomas had said that at 2.30pm, half an hour before kick-off, fans suddenly started heading away from the stadium "like a tide turning" and were coming back with beer. "I assume it was from an off-licence or a pub."

He said most of about 10,000 supporters he saw in the next 25 minutes were clutching cans or bottles and were the worse for drink.

The hearing was adjourned to today.

Chess gold in sight for England team

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

WITH one week left in the World Chess Olympics at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, the English team shares the lead on 21½ points out of a possible 32 with the teams from Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

The contest is England's best chance of winning the chess gold medals, as the Soviet side is depleted by the absence of Kasparov and Karpov in Lyons, France, who are competing for the individual world championship.

England had a slow start in the Chess Olympics leading to a 2½ to 1½ defeat by the Soviet side in round five. However, in rounds six, seven and eight, the team went on to defeat India by 2½ to 1½, beat Australia by 3½ to 1½, and topple the mighty US team by 2½ to 1½. In round nine England will face Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union plays China, and the Yugoslav

team plays the US. The hero of the English team has been the London grandmaster Murray Chandler, whose seven points from eight games has contributed almost one third of England's total.

Each team is composed of four players plus two reserves, any four of whom will play in a given round.

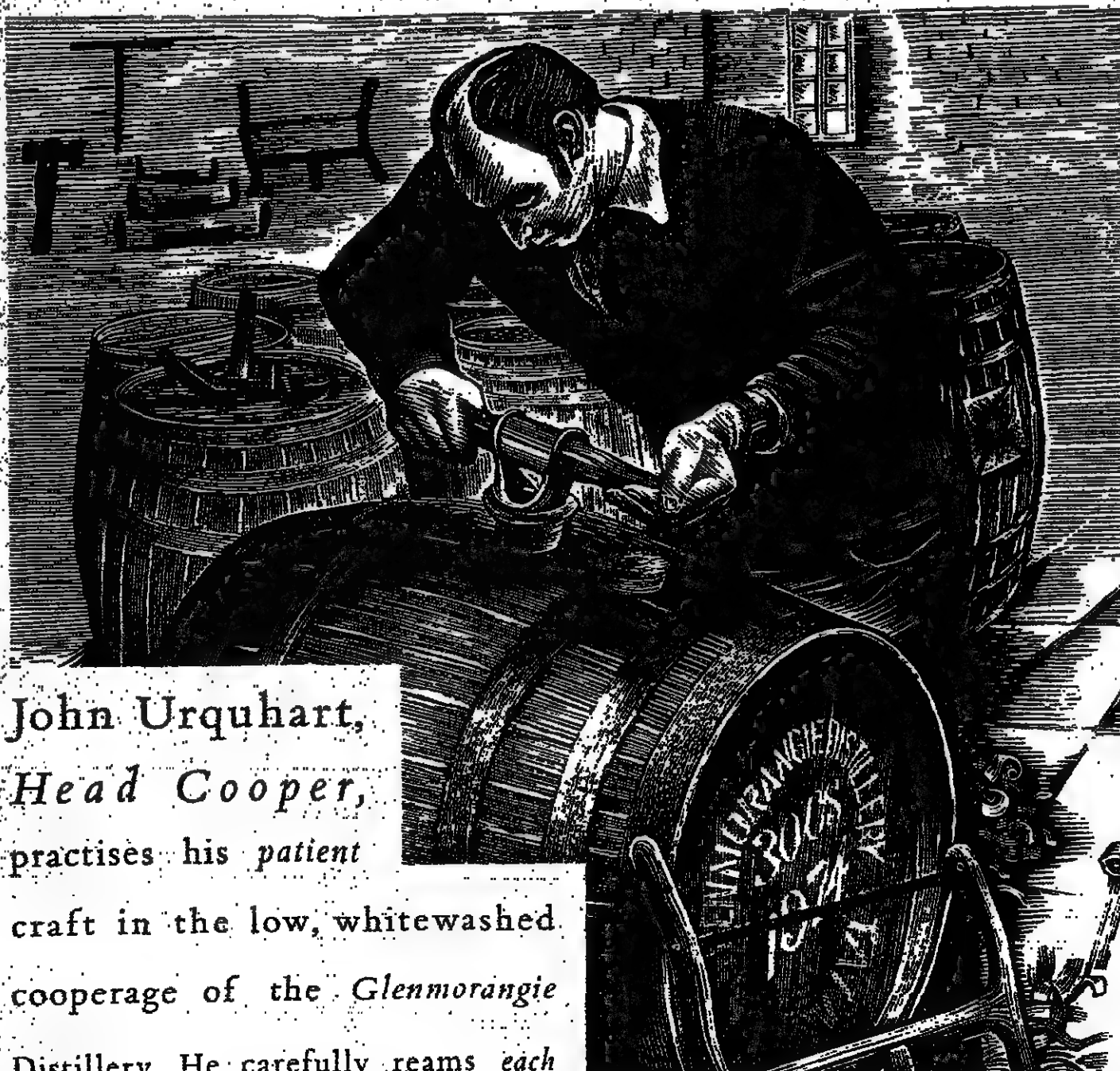
In ninth-round games so far, the Scottish team has defeated Uruguay by four points to zero; Wales beat Japan 2½ to 1½; Ireland has 1½ to a half against Algeria with two games adjourned, and the Channel Islands scored a half to Malaysia's 2½ with one game unfinished.

England, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union lead with 21½; the US has 21; Yugoslavia, West Germany, East Germany and Bulgaria, 20½; and China and Portugal 20, both with an adjourned game.

NUMBER XI. OF BUNGHOLE'S AND HOGSHEADS (OR ... ROBBING THE ANGELS).

GLENMORANGIE

10 YEARS OLD
SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY



John Urquhart,
Head Cooper,
practises his patient

craft in the low, whitewashed
coopage of the Glenmorangie
Distillery. He carefully reams each

bunghole to a PERFECT fit. Johnny acknowledges that during the
malt's TEN YEARS in the wood, much will be 'lost to the angels' through
evaporation; but why, he reasons, should they receive more than their due share?

HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN OF TAIN.

British Gulf chief rules out annihilation of Iraqi power

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN RIYADH

THE allies are not looking for the complete annihilation of Iraq and expect a regional peace conference to follow the military expulsion of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the exiled emir to government there, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, the overall commander of British forces in the Gulf, said yesterday.

At the first joint press conference held by the British and Saudi based commanders of the British force, the air chief marshal played down the possibility of the allies proceeding to a second-stage assault on Iraq, although he admitted that attacks against the Iraqi chemical and other weapons facilities would be seen as legitimate during the operation against Kuwait.

"We are not out to smash Iraq," he claimed, "but to force compliance with the United Nations resolution, and the solution to that lies very much in the hands of Saddam Hussein. We shall take as much military action as is necessary to secure that objective."

He said that more British warplanes may be sent to the Gulf. A final decision is likely after the election of a new British prime minister.

British Tornado pilots returning next month after the end of a three-month tour of duty have been placed on 40 hours' notice for a possible return to the Gulf.

The air chief marshal, seated under a huge map of the region said that, as before, British heavy weaponry will be transported to Saudi Arabia by ship while most of the extra soldiers will come by air. The United States has recently appealed for Nato assistance in transporting the 150,000 extra men it will have based in the Saudi desert by early next year.

Flanked by General Sir Peter De La Billiere, the commander of British forces on the ground in the Middle East, Sir Patrick, who flew out for top-level discussions from his command bunker in High Wycombe, said that the virtual doubling of Britain's commitment may involve a change in Britain's role in any future war.

"Whether its role will change significantly or not has yet to be discussed fully with our allies here

in theatre," he told reporters. "So, one could say that it is one of the uncertainties that will have to be cleared up over the next weeks."

His remarks were seen as confirmation that allied commanders had only just begun to draw up offensive plans for any eventual operation to retake Kuwait, having initially concentrated on assembling a force best suited to repulse any attempt by President Saddam to invade Saudi Arabia. This has now been dismissed as highly improbable.

In diplomatic circles Sir Patrick's statement was seen as evidence that the allied commanders hoped to calibrate any armed conflict in an effort to shore up long-term stability in the region.

Similar hopes have been expressed by senior Saudi officials and by the commander of US forces, General Norman Schwarzkopf, who acknowledged to *The New York Times* that the "total destruction of Iraq is an option" but added: "I am not sure that is in the interest of the long-term balance of power in this region."

The Saudis and other Arab nations in the coalition against Iraq are afraid that total destruction would destroy the main regional counterweight to the arms strength of Israel and Iran.

The idea of a new regional security structure was originally floated by James Baker, the US Secretary of State. Its mention yesterday by Britain's military commander was taken as a sign of the extent of secret planning under way to try to cope with the turbulence of the postwar era in the region.

Neither General De La Billiere nor Sir Patrick would give any precise estimate of British casualties. Both Western and Arab diplomats expect these could run to many times the Falklands total.

The general refused to comment on a suggestion that Kuwaiti saboteurs were being trained by Western special forces to carry out sabotage behind Iraqi lines. But he implied that low morale may now be gripping the occupying Iraqi army, which Baghdad says will be increased to 650,000 men.



Watching brief: Royal Marine Paul Hamber, from Portsmouth, standing guard on board the Panamanian-registered Lady Catherine, one of several vessels boarded in the Gulf in the past week by men from HMS Gloucester, seen in the background

UN set for historic recourse to force

FROM JAMES BOWEN IN NEW YORK

THE resolution authorising force against Iraq that the United Nations Security Council is expected to pass on Thursday, brings the United Nations closer than ever before to its original concept of collective security.

Although the text under discussion does not explicitly invoke article 42 of the UN Charter — the key provision allowing the use of force to suppress aggression — its wording echoes the language of the article.

"The end of this week should be a very exciting time in the history of the United Nations," said David Scheffer, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "It will be the furthest the security council has ever gone to authorise the use of force."

Article 42, adopted 45 years ago to give the new world organisation the teeth lacking by the failed League of Nations, enables the security council to "take such action as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockades and other operations by air, sea or land forces of the members of the United Nations".

The United States and Britain have resisted explicitly invoking article 42 because of the UN machinery it is thought to entail. Subsequent articles make clear that article 42 action requires UN command. Article 46 says, for instance, that "plans for the application of armed force shall be made by the security council with the assistance of the military staff committee", a panel made up of military officers from the five powers — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Article 47 adds that "the military staff committee shall be responsible under the security council for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the security council". The Soviet Union has long been trying to revive the military staff committee, and recently persuaded the other four permanent members of the security council to send high-ranking officers to an informal meeting.

The compromise under discussion is wording that allows the use of "all necessary means" to force Iraq from Kuwait after a

certain date — the Americans want January 1. That would amount to a veiled reference to article 42, while not actually invoking all the legal requirements it entails.

Such wording, similar to the ambiguous language used in the resolution passed in August imposing an effective naval blockade on Iraq, would have the added advantage of enabling China not to exercise its veto power by arguing — as it did at the time of the naval blockade — that the resolution did not authorise the use of force.

Mindful of its duties and responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance and preservation of international peace and security, Determined to secure full compliance with its decisions,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, 1. Authorises member states co-operating with the government of Kuwait, unless Iraq on or before January 1 1991 fully implements the foregoing resolutions, to use all necessary means to uphold and

implement the security council resolutions passed in response to Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, and to restore international peace and security in the area;

2. Requests all states to provide appropriate support for the actions undertaken in pursuance of paragraph 1 of this Resolution;

3. Requests the states concerned to keep the council regularly informed on the progress of actions undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this resolution.

Permanent members debate next step

EXTRACTS from the United States draft resolution which is being discussed by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council:

The security council, recalling and reaffirming its [earlier] resolutions on the invasion of Kuwait,

Noting that, despite all efforts by the United Nations, Iraq refuses to comply with its obligation to implement Resolution 660 (1990) and subsequent resolutions, in flagrant contempt of the council,

2. Requests all states to provide appropriate support for the actions undertaken in pursuance of paragraph 1 of this Resolution;

3. Requests the states concerned to keep the council regularly informed on the progress of actions undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this resolution.

Implement the security council resolutions passed in response to Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, and to restore international peace and security in the area;

Kuwaitis to get Mirage spares

Paris — France is giving the Kuwaiti government exiled in Saudi Arabia spare parts to make 15 French-built Mirage jet fighters operational, according to an authoritative source (AFP reports). But the source dismissed press reports that missiles were also on their way.

The Mirages, flown out of Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion in August, would have new engines, undercarriages, tyres and small-calibre ammunition, the source said. Deliveries of the spares began two weeks ago.

Reports that the French government was also sending Exocet and Hot missiles were not true, the source said, adding that this option was, however, being considered. The aircraft left Kuwait without their weapons.

Swedes to be freed

Stockholm — Iraq's parliament has decided to release the remaining 56 Swedish hostages in the country, the foreign ministry said here. Ingvar Carlsson, the prime minister, said a letter he recently sent to President Saddam Hussein had been read aloud in the Iraqi parliament before the decision. In the letter he appealed for the release of the hostages so that Sweden could continue its Middle East peace initiatives. Mr Carlsson said he believed it would take several days for the decision to be ratified by President Saddam. (AP)

Japan lifts ban

Tokyo — Japan, on humanitarian grounds, has lifted a ban on the export to Iraq of medical supplies reported to be worth about £965,000, the foreign ministry here said. The supplies, to be strictly monitored to ensure they are not diverted for military use, will be the first shipments from Japan to Iraq since Tokyo, obeying UN sanctions, banned trade and economic co-operation with Baghdad on August 5. (Reuters)

Bomb shelters

Ankara — Since the start of the Gulf confrontation 32 bomb shelters have been built at a joint Turkish-American air base, Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said. The shelters, at Incirlik air base, about 300 miles from the Iraqi border, will resist nuclear and chemical attacks, Cemalettin Kara, Incirlik's mayor, told the agency. (Reuters)



Benn arrives in Iraq looking for Saddam peace initiative

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

TONY BENN, the Labour MP, says the change of leadership in Britain has improved the prospects of peace in the Gulf. On his arrival in Baghdad for a controversial four-day visit, the former cabinet minister said he planned to urge Iraq to show some new initiative in the four-month in the Gulf in an effort to prevent war.

Mr Benn, who is expected to meet President Saddam Hussein, also suggested that Iraq should release thousands of foreign detainees in an effort to improve the prospects for peace.

"I think the change of prime minister in Britain is helpful, because whoever the new man is who takes over as prime minister this week, he cannot really want to start his period in a war situation," Mr Benn said.

His primary concern, however, will be to attempt to persuade the Iraqi leader to give some signal that he is willing to negotiate over Kuwait, before the UN Security Council meets on Thursday to debate the American draft resolution that could open the way for military action against Iraq.

However, the Iraqi leadership reacted with predictable contempt yesterday at news of the security council's draft resolution.

The ruling Baath party daily, *al-Thawra*, rejected in an editorial the "unjustified" resolution and said it would not alter Baghdad's policies. It added that Iraq respected UN resolutions, but not when America imposed measures which "contradicted all international laws". The paper said: "We have to ask if this new resolution is a United Nations one or an American one." It accused Washington of using "threats and blackmail" to pass previous resolutions and predicted it would do so again when the security council meets on Thursday to debate the latest draft proposal.

Mr Benn said: "I am very much hoping that... something might be said this week by the Iraqi government that might give the security council the opportunity to say we would like to think again before going along this road." He added it was in Iraq's interests to

take part in UN negotiations, not least because they could open the way for a solution to the Palestinian problem, but also because the post-Cold War world would otherwise be run by the United States.

Mr Benn, who received about 600 letters from relatives asking him to intervene on behalf of 450 British hostages, also said that Iraq could greatly enhance its position by releasing all its detainees. "I think the problem of the residents in Iraq is something that might possibly be resumed on a general basis, and might make it easier for people to respond to a peaceful solution," he explained, adding that he did not want to raise any hopes of an early release among hostages and their families.

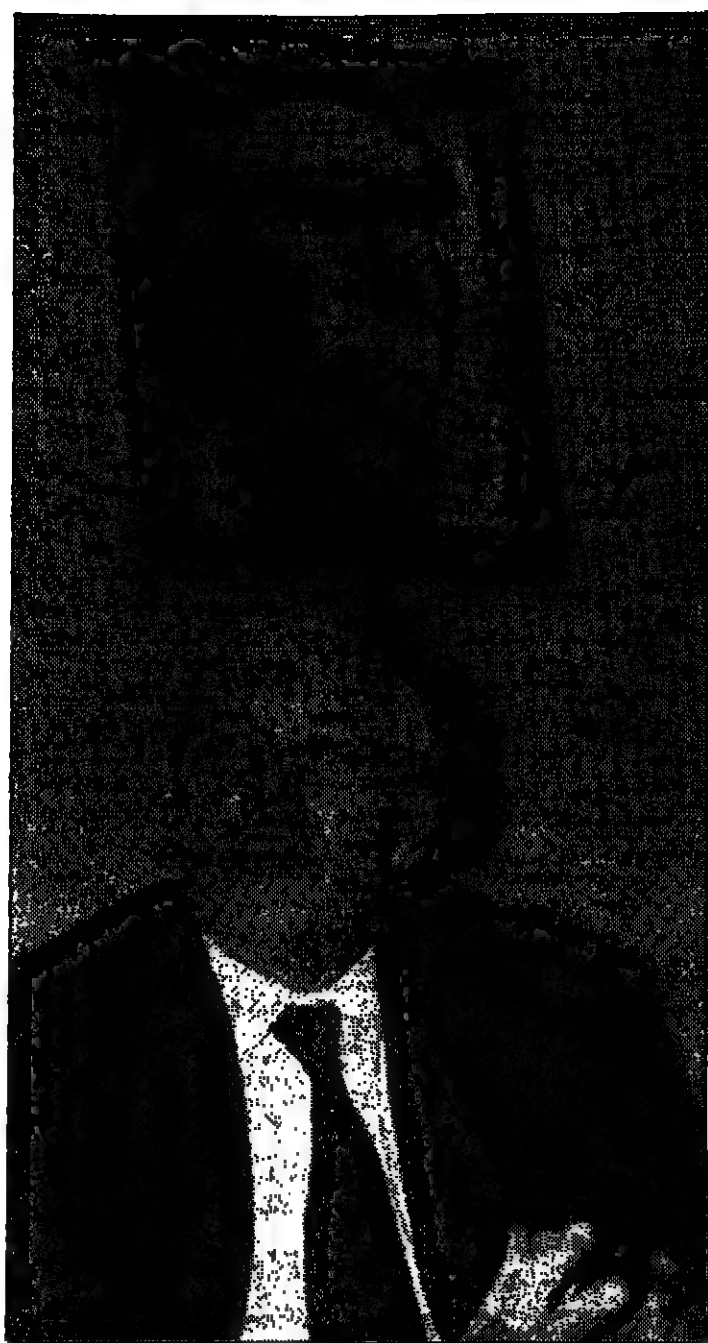
However, it does seem likely that, whatever the outcome of Mr Benn's mission, he will succeed in securing the release of some Britons after a spate of recent releases of many nationalities, including the remaining 56 Swedes who were told they could leave yesterday. Iraq on Sunday night brought to Baghdad all 53 Britons being held at strategic sites in Kuwait, raising speculation that they might have been chosen to go free.

What is concerning Western envoys in Baghdad most is that President Saddam is living in a "fool's paradise", convinced that allied forces in the Gulf are bluffing and that he can hold on to Kuwait indefinitely.

One senior diplomat said yesterday: "In principle, Saddam will withdraw from Kuwait if he really believes that he must go to war with the US and the Western allies. The problem is that he does not understand anything but force. He does not realise that these are more than just threats and that we are deadly serious."

President Saddam has grown increasingly confident that he has managed to divide the alliance ranged against him with his policy of selective hostage releases, and that growing Western public opinion against the war will make it impossible for President Bush to attack.

"Saddam is well informed and kept up to date with the latest



Hostage hopes: Tony Benn, in Amman on his way to Baghdad, feels the change of British leadership will help peace prospects

developments," one envoy said. "But no one would dare interpret the report in a pessimistic way, not the foreign visitors who want to get hostages out, and certainly not his aides, who are afraid of contradicting him."

As President Saddam showed when he made peace with Iran earlier this year, he can change his policy overnight, but only when he feels he has no option. Western observers feel that in the interim period, before the proposed January deadline for the use of force, a high-level mission, led possibly by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, should visit Baghdad and attempt to persuade the Iraqi leader that President Bush and his allies are serious.

In Iraq, brinkmanship is an art

form, which nobody has mastered better than President Saddam. A salutary lesson for anyone who is hoping to frighten or cajole him into withdrawing from Kuwait and avoiding war is provided daily by the merchants of Baghdad's *souk*, where buying even the most basic item involves time-consuming haggling which ends only when the shopper storms off, followed by the stallholder offering a compromise price.

As one senior Western diplomat, who has had extensive high-level negotiations with Iraqis in the past, explained, the job of convincing will be difficult. "They will hold on to the rope right until the very last second before it snaps, and only then will they let go."

Shamir pledges action on killings

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL will take "defensive measures" after the killing of four Israelis by an Egyptian gunman in police uniform on Sunday, says Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. He demanded that both Egypt and Jordan should "take care that such things do not happen again".

David Levy, the foreign minister, said the killings, on the Israeli-Egyptian border near Eilat, were further proof that the wave of Islamic and Arab nationalist fervour set off by President Saddam Hussein was endangering Israel's security. Mr Levy said: "Saddam Hussein has created an agitated climate in the region."

Israel has attributed recent infiltration attempts on its borders with Jordan and southern Lebanon — and now with Egypt — to the impact of the Gulf confrontation. The mass-circulation daily *Yediot Ahronot* said Sunday's attack was further proof that Israel faced new acts of Iraqi-fuelled terrorism.

Egyptian sources said a suspect was being interrogated, and Egypt had moved as quickly as possible to apprehend the assailant and to hold consultations with senior Israeli military officials on stepping up border security.

Israeli officials dismissed claims by a Muslim extremist group based in Jordan, the Islamic Jihad Baith al Makhdes, that its members had carried out Sunday's attack. But the *Jerusalem Post* said it was clear that King Hussein was once again allowing terrorist groups to use Amman as a base for attacks. Other Israeli press reports said that, despite official Egyptian regret over Sunday's incident, the anti-Israeli tone of much of the Egyptian media was helping to create a climate which encouraged individual Arabs to undertake acts of violence.

In another attack on Sunday, a 19-year-old Arab woman in southern Lebanon strapped explosives to her body and detonated them while approaching an Israeli army patrol inside Israel's self-imposed "security zone". She died and wounded two of the soldiers. The official Syrian daily newspaper *Tishreen* said the suicide bombing showed that Israeli security forces had been unable to prevent persistent efforts by Arabs to force Israel to leave southern Lebanon.

Ferry owners 'cashing in' on Gulf build-up

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE British government was accused yesterday of paying "exorbitant" prices for ships which have been hired for transporting tanks and other armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia.

Tom King, the defence secretary, is to be asked in the Commons to explain why the shipping charges are allegedly so high. The opposition claims to have information that the commercial rates are three times the normal price.

Keith Speed, the Conservative MP for Ashford, Kent, and a former navy minister, claimed the government was paying "exorbitant rates". Since the decision to send an armoured brigade to Saudi Arabia, and subsequently a second brigade as reinforcements, the defence ministry has gone to the commercial market to hire about 40 ships, most of them specialist roll-on, roll-off ferries or general purpose cargo vessels. Only two of the ships are British-flags.

Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, has tabled a number of Commons questions demanding to know whether the rates charged compared favourably with vessels hired by the United States and France. Mr O'Neill is in the Gulf, but yesterday one of his aides said: "Our information is that we are paying more for ships than the Americans or the French."

However, according to commercial shipping sources, the government has been charged between 30 per cent and 40 per cent more than the hiring rate that was set before the invasion of Kuwait. A source said: "This is the normal commercial market. When the demand is high, the market goes up." The source insisted that it was the Americans who had paid "over the top" for their hirings. But the British government had paid the current commercial rate.

In 1982, when the government launched its operation to recapture the Falklands, a decision was taken to requisition British-owned ships from the commercial market. The British merchant fleet was in a healthier state then.

The shipping source said: "Now, with the decline in the British merchant fleet, the government had to go to the open market and hire whatever vessels were available." He said it would not necessarily have been cheaper to requisition British ships for the

Gulf because that entailed withdrawing vessels from their normal commercial routes and removing their cargo. "That takes time and money," the source said.

David Tomlinson, director of the UK Centre for Maritime Policy Studies, said yesterday: "The problem has been that the government gave no notice of requiring ships for the Gulf. Suddenly the decision was taken to send tanks. It was all done at the last minute."

The Ministry of Defence has hired ships from more than 12 countries. Sources said that no single country was charging more than others. "It was all done according to the going commercial rate," he said.

Germany to close arms loopholes

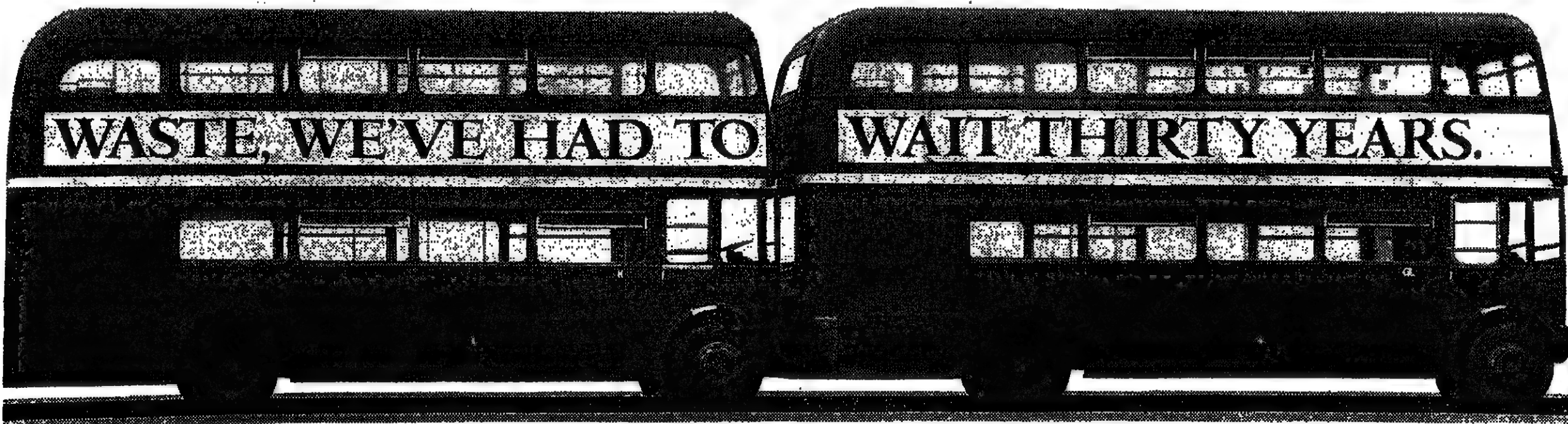
FROM REUTERS IN BONN

GERMANY, criticised for lax controls which allowed Iraq to obtain German weapons and poison-gas technology, will close all the loopholes in its arms-export laws, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, said yesterday. "After the election the government will deal with this and present a draft law very quickly, because every hole here must be closed," he said in a radio interview.

German firms have in the past exported weapons to Iraq and helped it to build factories which could produce poison chemical gases for military use.

Der Spiegel magazine claimed yesterday that Germans and people from other European countries had been secretly going to Iraq to help run the arms factories and other installations they had helped to build. Westerners had been held as human shields at some of the installations to deter attack from the multinational force in the Gulf, the magazine said.

Quoting freed hostages and secret intelligence reports, it said chemical weapons plants built by German firms were still daily churning out large amounts of nerve gas.



Are you surprised at how little high level nuclear waste has been produced?

A lot of people are.

There seems to be a general feeling that acres and acres of it are lying around, barely secured, with a radioactive life of thousands of years. Or that tons of it are being dumped at sea every year.

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BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS
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Pretoria negotiators try to score points as fresh talks begin

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE debate over South Africa's future will move forward today when Nelson Mandela presents President de Klerk with proposals for an elected assembly to draw up a constitution, and an interim government to supervise the transition to a multiracial democracy.

Pretoria is implacably opposed to both suggestions, and harsh exchanges between the government and the African National Congress in the run-up to the talks suggest the reform process is in danger. In reality the flurry of recriminations is mere shadow-boxing. Both sides are sparring in preparation for negotiations on a new constitution, but neither wishes to knock the other out of the ring at this early stage.

In their talks today Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela, the ANC deputy president, will discuss obstacles to the negotiations. Given the mutual respect which has developed between them, straight talking aimed at defusing tensions will be the order of the day.

Mr Mandela set the tone for

the meeting at a weekend rally when he criticised Pretoria for failing to curb aggressive security forces. "We will make our point firmly without seeking to fight anyone. We meet the government with the intention of keeping them on track. They must work with us in promoting the peace process," he said.

The immediate concern is violence between black activists and the security forces, fuelled by demonstrations on one side and repression on the other. The government says it has no objection to political rallies, but intimidatory tactics are unacceptable.

In a recent speech Mr de Klerk said: "Unbridled protest politics can do a lot of harm... some of the slogans being shouted in the streets arouse dangerous passions. What we need is cool deliberation and reasoned debate."

Pretoria insists that it must continue to govern until a new constitution is adopted, but says the negotiating forum will have an "authoritative status". What that means is anybody's guess, and will only

begin to become clear when the participants are identified.

Closely watching the preliminary sparring are figures whose place at the negotiating table is assured. Prominent among them is Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu chief whose Inkatha Freedom Party is the ANC's principal black rival.

Chief Buthelezi, along with other moderate non-white leaders, is also opposed to a constituent assembly elected by universal franchise, which would inevitably give the ANC the upper hand.

The ANC is equally determined to deny Mr de Klerk's National Party the huge advantage of ruling throughout the transition period. Either way, its tactics of "mass mobilisation" are less about dismantling apartheid than about increasing its bargaining power.

Despite rhetoric from hawkish figures in both camps, however, the principal protagonists appear intent on talking, rather than fighting, their way out of their respective corners.



Wheels within wheels: a Vietnamese trishaw driver steadying a large load of new Chinese-made bicycles he is delivering to customers in Hanoi. Pedal power is the main means of transport in a country that has been left impoverished by years of war and communist control

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Sikh leadership held 'to avert Punjab disorder'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian prime minister, Chandra Shekhar, yesterday defended the arrest of six of Punjab's most important Sikh leaders and 500 leading political activists, widely seen as the start of tough security measures in the strife-torn state.

Even by Punjab's standards, the death rate this year is high. Official figures are deliberately pitched low, but unofficial accounts put the toll at about 4,000, by far the worst in nearly a decade of fighting.

The heightened political tension comes after days of bloodshed. Last Thursday at least 25 bus passengers, all Hindus, were killed. Militants went on a shooting spree on Sunday night, killing 15 people in the district of Jalandhar, which was under curfew for much of yesterday. The official death toll in Punjab in the 24 hours up to last night was 16.

Separatists demanding a Sikh homeland called Khalistan are terrorising the local population. Most have little sympathy with the secessionist cause, but they are forced to remain quiet: anybody speaking out faces assassination.

Journalists, long discouraged by militant threats from writing about the true extent of kidnapping and extortion rackets, received a direct warning this week not to write anything that was critical about the fighters, delivered in a message headed "Code of conduct". Newspapers and news agencies were told to describe them only as militants or freedom fighters, and never as terrorists. The message carried an implied threat to those who refused to comply.

Mr Chandra Shekhar said the arrest of the six Sikh leaders, all from factions of the pro-Khalistan group, Akali Dal, was a necessary measure; the government had received information about a proposal that was to have been discussed at a planned meeting of the leaders.

The Punjab state government said the meeting, involving all six of the Sikh leaders, was to have been followed by an announcement of a programme of action to create disruption, disorder and confrontation with the gov-

ernment, so as to encourage secessionist forces.

The most important of those arrested was Simranjit Singh Mann, who was released from prison a year ago to a thunderous welcome throughout Punjab, although he soon lost much of his influence after advocating more moderate policies. He has reverted to a tougher line, demanding a separate Sikh homeland.

A state-wide strike has been ordered by the Akali Dal groups today, although some essential services have been exempted. A spokesman said the prime minister had gone back on his declared sympathy for the Sikhs, and now stood exposed.

Singapore leader quits after 31 years

FROM RABBIT IN SINGAPORE

LEE Kuan Yew, Singapore's leader, resigned yesterday, ending his reign as the world's longest-serving prime minister and giving way to his first deputy prime minister and the man he picked to succeed him, Goh Chok Tong. The resignation, which had been in preparation for months, is effective from Wednesday.

Mr Lee, who swept to power on a wave of anti-colonial feeling in 1959, masterminded the island's transformation from a tiny colonial outpost to a thriving metropolis.

Many diplomats said Mr Lee was expected to retain his power through his immense personal prestige and leadership of the ruling People's



Lee: "Singapore has seen and heard enough of me"

Japan facing new outcry as whalers sail

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

THREE weeks after the mysterious death of nearly 600 dolphins on a remote Japanese island caused an international outcry, Japan is tracing itself for further condemnation from conservationists after launching a new scientific whale hunt.

The whaling fleet's mother ship set off for the Antarctic at the weekend with the aim of catching up to 330 minke whales. She will be joined by three smaller boats for a four-month hunt. Wildlife campaigners reject Japan's argument that the research programme is designed to collect population data that will show there are ample stocks to lift the International Whaling Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling.

He said he did not believe there would be a power struggle between his son and Mr Goh, who has named the younger Lee as one of two deputy prime ministers.

Mr Goh, aged 49, said security and economic growth would be his priorities, but there would be more emphasis on education and arts. He will retain Mr Lee as a senior minister, although Mr Lee "through force of habit will still tell me what to do".

Until then...

4-10

Poland's man from nowhere is warning sign for old order

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

STANISLAW "Stan" Tyminski looked, as usual, faintly dazed. How does it feel to be the only surviving challenger to Lech Walesa for the presidency? This was perhaps the thirtieth time that he had been asked, yet it still took him 45 seconds of thought, cause for panic on live television. "Fine," he said, at last. Even then, he did not seem certain.

Mr Tyminski is a slow, deliberate man with a biography that could have been crafted by Jeffrey Archer. From today, as the results show, Mr Tyminski ("the man from nowhere", said one headline) is the second-ranking politician in Poland, the white hope of all those who reject not only the policies of Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister, but also the personality of Mr Walesa, the Solidarity chairman. The provisional count gives Mr Walesa 39 per cent, Mr Tyminski 23.9 per cent and Mr Mazowiecki 17.5 per cent.

There are few certainties about Mr Tyminski, who has risen without a trace. He emigrated in 1969, first to Sweden then to Canada, where he set up a computer business, became interested in Peru, opened a restaurant there, returned to Canada and established a small party of 3,500 members and, a month ago, surfaced again in Poland.

Mr Tyminski puzzled his



Walesa: now a model of sobriety and wisdom

way through an impromptu press conference yesterday, and the gaps merely widened. He claims to be a millionaire, yet his company is a nine-man concern with a small turnover. How does he explain this? No answer. Why did he emigrate? No answer. Why did he return to Poland, using different passports in the 1980s, and why does he deny doing this? Did he come via Libya, and why?

"All lies," he said yesterday. "The stories must be put right." But by whom? His self-financed autobiography is a curiosity. He makes important points by putting the key words in capital letters. Typically: "Poles need a unifying goal and One Such Goal That Can Unite Poles is War."

Pointers to the policies of a future President Tyminski emerge from this book, entitled *Holy Dogs*. One example is: "The most effective weapon for Poland today is an intelligent medium-range missile, with a nuclear warhead of about one megatonne."

Poland, he said yesterday, was the only victorious power from the second world war without nuclear weapons. Would he make Poland go nuclear if he were president? No answer.

The shrewd commentator Piotr Pacewicz noted that Mr Tyminski's support in Sunday's elections was drawn from villages, small towns, workers and the young. This, he wrote in the pro-Mazowiecki *Gazeta Wyborcza*, was the second Poland, as unknown in its way as Mr Walesa, alienated from Solidarity and the political game.

The percentage of the vote won by Mr Tyminski translates into about four million voters. Many were from the post-Solidarity generation, perhaps eight years old when Mr Walesa climbed over the Gdansk shipyard fence to lead the 1980 strikes. And many were workers disillusioned with Solidarity, which in their eyes has become a debilitated union.

Those who still believe in Solidarity voted for Mr Walesa, and those who do not voted either for Mr Tyminski or for the minor candidates, such as the non-communist Wlodzislaw Cimoszewicz, who won 9.3 per cent, and the Peasants' Party leader Roman Bartoszewicz, who picked up 8.3 per cent. Mr Mazowiecki paid the price for leading a government committed to unpopular economic policies.

Mr Walesa is now clearly pleased to stand against Mr Tyminski in the run-off on December 9. First, it will be relatively easy. Second, he will by contrast emerge as a model of sobriety, wisdom and sanity. Finally it will give him a chance to mend some fences with Mr Mazowiecki, who will not abandon politics, though he will certainly resign as prime minister, whoever wins the presidency.

Mr Mazowiecki has two groupings that will fight for his vision of evolutionary change: his election committee, which will not be dissolved, and ROAD, the citizens' movement for democratic action — the infrastructure of a party to bridge Christian democratic and social democratic traditions in Poland. It would push for strong representation in a new, freely elected parliament early next spring.

Mr Walesa, who has already established a core team to take with him to the presidential palace, will probably retain some of the current ministers until parliamentary elections. But he has spoken of making "adjustments" to the International Monetary Fund plan supported by Leszek Balcerowicz, the finance minister, who could take over as prime minister, and this will be the most important showdown between the old Mazowiecki cabinet

and the line-up proposed by Mr Walesa. The bitter personal war for the presidency has done more than split Solidarity. This in itself would not be bad thing, since all old anti-totalitarian coalitions must give way at some stage to a proper party landscape. The problem is that parties have to evolve, their



Challenger: Stanislaw Tyminski, the mystery man in Poland's elections, was giving little away as he spoke to reporters, watched by his wife, Gracjela

and the line-up proposed by Mr Walesa.

The meteoric success of Mr Tyminski is a warning sign. Those who voted for Mr Walesa wanted to end the one-party rule of Solidarity. Those who voted for Mr Tyminski wanted to prevent the one-man rule of Mr Walesa.

Leading article, page 19

Gorbachev links Soviet unity to West's support

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev told the Soviet parliament yesterday that the Soviet Union had been promised substantial aid from Germany and Canada, and paid tribute to the "great reserves of goodwill" he had experienced from Western leaders during the European security summit in Paris. The *leitmotif* of his address, however, was that this would be lost unless the Soviet Union stayed together as a "renewed, integrated state".

The Soviet leader's statement came only hours after Sergei Stankevich, the deputy mayor of Moscow, had issued a warning of a sharp reduction in milk supplies to the capital as a result of contracts broken by local suppliers, and disclosed that the city had only three days' supply of dried milk. Mr Stankevich blamed "political manoeuvring" and panic-buying for Moscow's empty dairy shops.

Speaking of aid pledged by the German government, Mr Gorbachev told parliament he was prepared to take personal responsibility for the administrative arrangements. His remarks appeared to be addressed to a German delegation due in Moscow today to discuss the supply, transport and distribution of food aid. He said Canada had also promised "substantial deliveries" of food before January 15, worth \$500 million (£421,000) and supplied on "favourable terms".

Mr Gorbachev was addressing parliamentary deputies who had spent the morning hearing details from government ministers of measures proposed to remedy the country's desperate economic situation. Yuri Maslyukov, the chairman of Gosplan, the state planning committee, introduced the draft plan and budget for 1991 signed last week by Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister. He said substantial food imports would have to continue at about the same level as last year. Imports of grain, vegetable oil, sugar and meat comprised about one-third of the total Soviet food provision.

Mr Maslyukov and his fellow deputy prime minister, Leonid Abalkin, were remarkably passive given the spending cuts, price rises and new sales tax proposed for next year. Although they had received a copy of the plan and budget for next year on Friday, most of the details appeared to pass them by and they eventually voted to delegate further work to a parliamentary committee created for the purpose.

Their apathy was seen by some as a tacit acknowledgement that the figures were totally unrealistic in the current political climate. Deputies from independent-minded republics also held their peace, even though the budget would deprive them of much of their hoped-for economic autonomy.

Before the vote was taken, rumours of disapproval had greeted calls from Valentin Pavlov, the finance minister, for a moratorium on social spending "because we cannot afford it". Some of the most contentious issues, however,

such as the government's insistence that measures to free prices had to be accepted to prevent next year's internal budget deficit reaching 250 billion roubles (£250 billion), went unchallenged.

The first real battleground over next year's budget is likely to be the Russian Federation, by far the biggest and richest of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, headed by Boris Yeltsin. Mr Gorbachev's arch-rival for power and influence.

An extraordinary congress of the republic's full parliament opens today and is expected to consider land reform, a new constitution and the possibility of fresh parliamentary elections, including a direct election for the post of president.

Mr Yeltsin is believed to be interested in strengthening his position by becoming the first directly elected republic leader in the Soviet Union.

Slovaks' economic fears aid old guard

Prague — The surprisingly strong showing by Czechoslovakia's Communist party in local government elections at the weekend appear to reflect a growing fear of the effects of the free-market economic restructuring of Vaclav Klaus, the finance minister and Civic Forum leader (Peter Green writes).

Additional returns yesterday showed the Communists with a commanding lead in separate mayoral elections in Slovakia, with more than 660 mayoral posts, 24 per cent of the total.

The vote was "a clear expression of fear about the impact of economic reforms", said Vladimir Zelensky, Civic Forum's spokesman.

Rebel ambush

Cagayan de Oro, Philippines — Communist guerrillas ambushed an army patrol at Banaag, Agusan del Sur province, killing 16 soldiers and burning their bodies. Major Rogelio Navarro, the military spokesman, said: Another 11 dead were all guerrillas, he added. (Reuters)

Poll triumph

Abidjan — President Houphouët-Boigny's party won 163 of the 175 seats in parliament in multiparty elections that ended 30 years of unchallenged rule, the government here announced. Opposition politicians accused the ruling party of intimidation and electoral fraud. (AP)

Bail refused

Berlin — A court here has ordered that Erich Mielke, aged 82, should be kept in custody until his trial on charges connected with his position as head of the former East German Stasi for 32 years. The judge feared he might try to flee if released on bail. (Reuters)

Attack threat

Aranyprathet, Thailand — The Khmer Rouge will launch a big military offensive in Cambodia if the forthcoming Paris peace conference fails to find a solution to the country's 12-year war, sources in the organisation said here. (AFP)

Elfless sacrifice

Quincy, Massachusetts — A parachutist dressed as a Christmas elf lost control and landed on a moving car in front of thousands of spectators at a Christmas festival here. The man was later admitted to hospital with broken bones. (AP)

EC voices doubts on social charter

FROM MICHAEL BRYNEN IN BRUSSELS

ALMOST a year after Mrs Thatcher's lone refusal to sign the European Social Charter, a majority of European Community members yesterday agreed with Britain that some of the proposals flowing from it are absurd.

EC social affairs ministers yesterday strongly opposed proposals by Vasso Papanastasiou, the social affairs commissioner, that part-time workers should get the same social security benefits as full-time employees.

They also said the commission's attempt to push through the plans by majority vote contravened the legal base for Community action on social questions, which must be agreed unanimously.

At issue were three proposals which deal with the health and safety of part-time workers.

Under commission plans, they will be entitled, *pro rata*, to the same social security benefits, holidays, dismissal pay and other protection as full-time workers receive. Britain has long argued that this would greatly increase the cost of employing them, and would lead to a reduction in part-time jobs.

Yesterday Germany, Spain and Ireland voiced similar doubts.

France called for the removal of the proposal to give part-timers the same *pro rata* social security protection as

full-timers, effectively gutting the commission plan. Carlo Donat Cattin, the Italian minister chairing the meeting, suggested that some countries had been unaware of the legal issues arising from the social charter when they signed it last year.

Germany and Spain were keen to protect the competitive edge of lower paid workers, especially in former East German territory. The Dutch said the proposals had been brought forward too quickly.

More importantly for Britain, most countries — including Luxembourg, which takes over the EC presidency in January — accused the commission of using the wrong legal base for its plans. The issue could not be put to a majority vote on the grounds of distortion of competition, they said; it was clearly a matter of workers' rights, which the Single European Act said must still be agreed unanimously.

There now seems little prospect of the commission's proposal going through. Britain was delighted. Eric Forth, the junior employment minister, said yesterday that the Twelve had shown a greater degree of realism.

Others apart from Britain had doubts and reservations, he said. "There is a danger of realisation that this is difficult territory and a lot of serious work needs to be done."



Ryzhkov: says substantial food imports will continue

Bonn bales out of Euro-fighter project

FROM IAN MURKIN IN BONN

THE German government will not back production of the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA), in which Britain has a big stake, according to Karl Lamers, defence policy spokesman of the Christian Democrats (CDU) in the Bundestag.

In an interview yesterday with the *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung*, he said: "I am sure it will never be built." Germany, like Britain, has a 33 per cent share in the project, and if the coalition decides not to buy the aircraft once it has been developed this would almost certainly mean an end of the EFA. Italy and Spain, who have a one-third share in the project between them, are unlikely to provide more money and it would be difficult if not impossible to find a new partner.

Cancelling the project would be widely popular in Germany, where polls show that virtually nobody wants to spend more money on it.

Theo Waigel, the finance minister and leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the CDU's Bavarian sister party, is known to be looking for big savings from the defence budget to help finance unification and, according to ministry officials, withdrawing from the production stage of the EFA is an obvious way to do this painlessly. They say it would be ridiculous to order the EFA at a time when Europe is disarming.

The Free Democrats (FDP), junior partners in the coalition, withdrew their support for the project early this year, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister and leading FDP member, has made its cancellation a theme of his election campaign.

While Herr Genscher emphasises that there is no longer a military threat from the east which needs to be countered by a highly sophisticated new aircraft, even the ministry of defence, which has long been pressing for a new warplane, is not too worried if it is not going to be equipped with the EFA because unification has made an unlikely but adequate replacement available.

Air force pilots are starting trials of 24 MiG 29 interceptors, originally acquired by East Germany, to see if the sophisticated Soviet-made plane can be integrated into united Germany's air force.

If it proves up to the task, it would mean that Germany would have no special need for the EFA, which it is developing with Britain, Italy and Spain. The MiG 29 is acknowledged to be among the world's finest warplanes,

superior in many respects to its American rivals. The EFA project was designed to produce an aircraft capable of fighting on at least equal terms against the Soviet machine.

The 24 MiG 29s, taken over when the East German armed forces ceased to exist on October 3, were originally supplied to serve as a front line of defence against any attack by Nato and could have a decade or more of service life ahead of them.

There is, however, no question at present of Germany abandoning the research and development stage of the EFA. The defence ministry calculates that pulling out of the contracts now would cost more than staying in them, so Bonn will continue paying its 33 per cent share, at least until the prototype is finished. This means no final decision will be needed until the end of 1992.

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Who is safest on Europe?

Ronald Butt

Europe provided the fuse for the explosion that unseated Mrs Thatcher. The instincts of the three candidates seem likely to bring to British policy on the road towards union in the Community should also play a significant part in each backbencher's decision on which of the three candidates is best qualified to become prime minister.

The danger of a deep Conservative fissure on Europe has not been removed by Mrs Thatcher's departure. On the contrary, it could be deepened and widened if she felt driven to assume the role of backbench leader of the guardians of British sovereignty against the suspected crypto-federalism.

Each of the candidates has, of course, declared that he is not a "federalist". But "federalism" in this context means what those who use it want it to mean. Its normal meaning is a system such as the German American which has both central and devolved authority, with the former responsible at least for the economy and matters of peace and war.

In the rhetoric by which the two sides of the British argument divide over European policy, however, the word "federalism" has no precise meaning. Those who use it as a weapon against the more fervent advocates of economic or political union mean by it simply the loss of British sovereign authority over the conduct of economic and social policy (foreign and defence policy do not yet come into it) to some kind of organisation as yet unspecified. They mean a willingness to set out towards economic union without prior conditions and with an implied willingness to surrender national parliamentary sovereignty if that, in the end, becomes the irresistible will of the European majority.

Even the British politicians who most fervently advocate a commitment to economic union deny they are federalists, though they have no specific federal plans. They argue that having already surrendered so much sovereignty in other fields it matters little in principle if we do the same for economic policy. They evade the essential question: what is to be the political framework for the functioning of economic and monetary union, or do they think that no new political framework would be needed? There is certainly no clarification in the convenience-word "subsidiarity".

The very attempt to define which functions would be reserved for the nation states would inevitably lead towards defining institutions of a federalist character.

British politicians have generally avoided constitutional-mongering or discussion of future EC political structures. Of the three leadership candidates, only Mr Heseltine has ventured into this field in his book advocating

British partnership in a "European consortium"; the changes in European political institutions he suggested would generally be seen as having quasi-federalist implications. In the present contest, however, he emphasises his gradualist pragmatism.

The central point at issue is this. Government in Britain is carried on by consent of the nation, expressed through Parliament. Parliamentary control is exercised through the Commons' power over taxation. What is now proposed is a central European bank and a single currency. But should the central bank be independent of political constraint (as the Bundesbank is independent of the German government)? If so, does this independence require at least some related political authority in an arrangement comparable to that German separation of economic powers? Or should the central bank not be politically independent at all but under some central political authority which would have to be federalist? It is surely impossible to have a central bank determining monetary policy without having a central political authority determining the related issue of taxation.

Since all this is implied in the argument over economic and monetary union, it cannot be right to commit Britain to a programme that could lead us on to a road towards economic and monetary union before the shape of what would be entailed is more clearly envisaged. The question to be asked about the candidates for the leadership is which of them seems most likely to avoid this risk. Mr Heseltine has declared that he is not a federalist and that though a single currency is an ultimate option, "if that's what people wanted", it is unrealistic to think it is an option now or that anyone could impose it on us.

He says that we should advance pragmatically, leaving the sovereign parliaments to take the decision on a single currency when the time comes. Yet although it is self-evident that this could not be imposed, we could be put on to a path that brought Parliament to a position in which economic and monetary union, with all its political implications, would in practice be inescapable. Mr Heseltine's remarks during the campaign leave at least me persuaded that he would be more likely than either Mr Hurd or Mr Major to lead us into this danger.

In essence, neither of the latter dissented from Mrs Thatcher's anxieties about sovereignty. What bothered them was the manner. They know that the nation as a political entity is the most efficient unit within which democratic accountability is practicable. If I were voting as an MP today, I should not leave these questions out of account in assessing the prospects for Tory unity under the rival candidates.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

There's bankruptcy in the air these days. You can taste it on the wind, acrid as zebras. The island teems with busted entrepreneurs sailing out of AGMs on to their ears, stumbling brokenly into courtrooms, shoving black hamburgs between themselves and the urgent cameras, stuffing the third set of books into carrier bags before scurrying to private airstrips, or simply hanging their heads upon their leather-topped desks for the last bitter time as the smirking bullfights work their way towards them across the foreclosed Wilton, crating the fittings as they go.

All the mealy-mouthed opprobrium of the media pours down upon these victims in a withering and *ben trovato* outrage. When all the time they should be honouring the bankrupt as hero, springing forward with laurel and huzzas as he hustled through them to his Black Maria, whipping round for his wife and kids and starving polo ponies, and bunting up statues to these buccannering spirits who dedicated themselves to the chanced arm, but finally fell to the rapped knuckle.

For we are a race that traditionally glorifies failure to the point where - provided it is catastrophic enough - it becomes more honourable than success: ask an Englishman to define heroism, and his eyes will brim at the memory of Captain Scott retreating to Dunkirk at the head of the Light Brigade. So, by that token, why should we forbear even from gumming a humble plaque to the distressed premises of a hero who threw ten million pounds at hazard and went to the wall at 2p in the pound?

I do not, of course, refer to the insignificant busted, the man who wheedles a couple of grand out of NatWest for a lolly-van which he subsequently drives into a ditch the day its insurance runs out, but to the visionary whose silver tongue can cozen a million out of merchant banks greedy to underwrite his scheme for turning Snowdonia into a hypermarket, or extracting philtum from sleet.

What are such geniuses but

seekers after North-west Passages, graves of Prester John, mines of Solomon? What but heroes prepared to leap over the top into fiduciary no man's land, jink through VAT minefields, single-handedly knock out their competitors' pillboxes, vault the Revenue's wire, and zig-zag on regardless, before being cut down, at last, by overwhelming commercial odds.

Especially, as with all true heroes, they are not merely this but also ego-ideals of what we ourselves might be, had we the bottle and initiative. Can there be many of us who are not incipient bankrupts, lured in over our heads, albeit by less extravagant dreams? Are we not all in some form of mundane unheroic hock? For lust of having what should not be had, we take the Golden Road to Carey Street: suppose, tomorrow, our banks, our mortgages, our credit-card companies, our H2P brokers, all decided to reclaim everything, immediately - would there be a majority of us able to flip open the wallet and see them off? The only difference between us and the Great Fallen is that we are the conscript bankrupts to their Napoleons and Rommels, we are the rank-and-file who have been persuaded to borrow the Queen's shilling, and we shall scramble through somehow to save our skins, survive only because we're not worth bothering about, while the generals are busted at drum-head courts-martial, stripped of their rank and insignia, and required to break their bright swords across their knees.

Would that I could summon the nerve to put someone else's money where my mouth is! Go literally for broke, scrounge a million or two by some glib stratagem, to found a chain of unisex fast-muesli bars, or market a range of chic self-packing luggage, or launch an Alice Faye satellite channel into the tellysphere, which would let me ride the heady, fragile crest for a glorious year or so before the whole heroic enterprise came to pieces in the Receiver's hands.

It will not happen. When it comes to livelihood, I know the frontiers of my courage. The typewriter is in my wife's name.

Michael Heseltine, in conversation with Robin Oakley, denies that he is a political assassin

'I showed the way: others followed'

Downing Street's first reaction to Michael Heseltine's leadership challenge was a scornful "glamour without substance". There is no doubt of the glamour. Douglas Hurd and John Major would turn few heads carrying trays to a cafeteria table. Michael Heseltine has presence. There is a coiled-spring energy about him after nearly five years' pursuit of a trophy which he now sees as within his grasp.

But what of the substance? All his careful, well-groomed replies through myriad interviews in the past week have been designed to give the impression of a thoughtful, resourceful man of ideas, not one who leaps to conclusions. He has used this measured calm to try to bury the memory of mace-twirling hastiness. And not once has he slipped up.

Mr Heseltine has sought to concentrate the contest on leadership and ability to win elections. When he faced Mrs Thatcher, the polls offered supporting evidence. Under her, the Tories would continue to lag behind Labour under him they would instantly take the lead. But the latest popularity polls show that John Major is as well or better liked,

with Douglas Hurd not far behind. So has the "winability factor" been something of a mirage?

That is not the point, says Mr Heseltine. He has made the breakthrough for others. "I made this opportunity possible. The party is now in a totally different position in terms of winning the next election. I responded to the wishes of colleagues to give them an opportunity to unite for the 1990s. I said we had to grip the issue of the community charge and deal with it. Until that moment we were drifting on, with the odd patch of Elastoplast, to what most of my colleagues felt was an electoral disaster. I led. Others followed."

But by striking against Mrs Thatcher, has he not enabled others to accuse him of regicide, so scotching his chances of uniting the party? Not so. "We are now going through a short and traumatic period. Exactly the same mood existed when Mrs Thatcher challenged Mr Heath. The present mood will pass just as quickly."

He has met the cries of regicide from Thatcherite activists, and clearly some have strong, "In any clash where very large personalities are involved and where

people's loyalties and affections are tested, any arguments that can be used to advance one interest or another are used, sometimes with a vehemence that might have been better avoided." On the need for poll-tax reform expressed by his two rivals, Mr Heseltine says that all have acknowledged the need for "the new approach which I so clearly staked out."

The party, he argues, needs not only to be united, it needs a leader capable of winning the next election. There is no cynicism. He looked me straight in the eye and said: "I have played a key role in two election campaigns, and I am much encouraged by the volume of support I have been able to attract back to the Conservative party where it had sadly ebbed." What he offers to the Tories, he is saying, is the ability to reach those parts of the electorate the other candidates cannot reach.

He claims a special ability to win votes in the North, saying that he has "done much for that part of the world" by clawing back from the French the European fighter aircraft work, by selling Tornados to the Saudis against tough competition. People have seen another side of him, too, he says, in his

response to the trauma of the inner-city riots.

Tackle him on the practicalities and he has ideas to offer. For example, his formula for improving the soured relations between central and local government involves restoring municipal pride with unitary authorities, elected mayors and competition between local authorities for government grants based on proven ability to improve services.

For once coming close to criticising one of his rivals, he says that Douglas Hurd's pledge to improve Parliament's working methods is "attractive to say, difficult to do". Such plans involve controlling parliamentary time, which he believes carries the risk of diminishing the rights of the Opposition to examine and delay legislation.

Is he not disturbed to find that his only supporter in the current cabinet is David Hunt? Is he not relying for heavyweight backing on the disgruntled departed such as Sir Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson?

There are reasons, he claims, for the lack of cabinet support, but he refuses to spell them out. The implication hangs in the air: those

remaining are still in thrall to Mrs Thatcher, in a way that the self-proclaimed man of the 1990s never has been. And, no, the backing of Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lawson does not mean that the three of them are together in an assassins' conspiracy, an anti-Thatcher brigade. Those who have pledged support to him include many Thatcherites. And of the two former Chancellors he emphasises: "They would not have endorsed me if they had doubts about my ability to lead or about my total commitment to the policies of sound money and practical Conservative administration."

Talking of soundness, would it not be wise to have as prime minister a foreign secretary of proven coolness, as matters in the Gulf come to a head?

What is required, says Mr Heseltine - giving the clearest clue yet to his cabinet dispositions - is continuity. "For the foreign secretary to continue at the Foreign Office, for the Chancellor to continue, and to bring into Number Ten a former defence secretary appointed and reappointed by Margaret Thatcher would be a model arrangement." And at that there was just the driest of smiles.

Vindication for the grape: it cheereth and inoculates

Softie, softie, cathee monkey. Not long ago I reported the findings of a massive and impeccably controlled survey on the effects of coffee, which is widely held to contribute notably to heart disease and other ailments. It transpires not only that coffee is harmless, up to six large cups of it a day, but that its caffeine is beneficial, while the decaffeinated version is significantly dangerous.

I danced a spirited jig on that occasion, and I am now about to dance another, even more abandoned. The coffee enquiry enlisted no fewer than 45,000 subjects, and monitored them over not less than four years. Well, we now have the results of a survey that enrolled some six times that number - more than 275,000 - and whereas the coffee investigators followed their prey for four years, the new body of subjects was studied for three times as long.

Now coffee, though it is a wonderful boon which also - as we now know - is positively health-improving (provided the drinker is sure to take it with caffeine), cannot without exaggeration be described as essential to good life. Wine, however, which is one of the greatest gifts mankind has ever received from nature - I rate it not far below art - is almost literally essential.

Of course, there are unfortunate souls who, for some constitutional reason, may not drink it without becoming ill, and there are others whose religion forbids it; there are also those who simply do not like the taste of it, and some who have let it overwhelm them and recognise that for them only total abstinence stands between them and the pit.

I am not such a fool as to look down on any of these, much less jeer at them. Nor do I offer them the impermanence of pity. But I am glad I am not one of them, and that is why I rejoice exceedingly at the findings of the gigantic survey I have mentioned. For it tested the effect of alcohol, taken in reasonable quantities, and the findings say that a drink or two every day - two glasses of wine, say, or a pint of beer, or a couple of whiskies - substantially reduces the chance of heart disease.

When I said I did not despise any of the non-drinkers in the



Bernard Levin finds scientific support for his belief that a little of what you fancy is good for mind, body and soul

categories I listed, my more sharp-eyed readers will have noticed a significant omission: the wowsers. These are the people determined to harass, bully, threaten and alarm the rest of us, until they reach their ultimate glorious goal of complete Prohibition. Macaulay can do a new suit; the modern Prohibitionists condemn drink not because too much of it makes you drunk, but because a little of it makes you feel better.

That has always been the situation, but now we have another, and immensely powerful resort. A moderate drink does not just make us feel better; it actually makes us better. This will not shut the wowsers up of course at this very moment they are composing libels for discreet circulation among their own kind and the more pulchre of the rest, claiming that the scientists who carried out the survey were in the pay of the liquor trade.

But I did not come here this morning to depress you. Instead, I come to sing the praises of the grape. I have no objection to hearing praises of the hop or the rye - every man to his favourite swallow and his favourite hymn to it - but it so happens that I have little taste for beer or spirits.

Besides, wine is by far the oldest form of alcoholic pleasure, and by even further the most varied.

Nobody knows who first trod the grapes and drank the result; unlike many other boons that cheer the human race, its technology, which was by no means obvious, was comprehended early. The Romans substantially refined the art, though wine of a kind had existed for many centuries before them: there was wine in ancient Egypt. Poetry on the subject began almost as soon as the thing was invented, and that was certainly no accident; the beauty and solace that wine provides is almost as inevitable and fitting a subject as love, and throughout history it has been praised wherever wine has been drunk.

I do not have an exceptional palate, and would be hopeless at a blind tasting, but I have been exploring wine now for more than 40 years, and I have inevitably garnered a good deal of knowledge, more particularly knowledge of what I like. I have never really been happy with white Burgundy, though only a week or two ago, at the great Ballymaloe House, I drank a Meursault that pinned my ears to the side of my head in a most notable manner. (It

was followed by a Lanesman - a wine little regarded, but which on this occasion drank like pure gold.) I take any opportunity to drink the Meursault's red brother; if there is game on the table, for instance, I take my bottle sloped. But in general, I have the same view as most of the rest of the wine-drinking world: it is clear that sipping upon the highest throne. Long live the King!

There is lots of wine in the Bible, I am happy to say; it is always handy to have scriptural support for the view of wine as one of God's greatest blessings. "Go thy way," says Ecclesiastes, "eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works." That is encouragement enough, though he went further than that, with "A man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry." That must not be taken too far, lest we bust the breathalyzer, and there is a sensible warning from Proverbs: "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red... at the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder."

But it is Ecclesiastes who sounds most like you and me, if "Wine is as good as life to a man, if

it be drunk moderately; what life is then to a man that is without wine? For it was made to make men glad." So it was, despite St Paul (the First Wowsers; if you ask me) who regarded it, most hardly, as nothing more than medicine: "...use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." Had he forgotten the first miracle of his Master?

Shakespeare, too, adds strength to our elbows. "Come, come, good wine is a good familiar creature if it be well used; exclaim no more against it!" But really, there is no literature or music or art (what do you think the lurchers *sur l'herbe* were drinking - cocus?) without it. I suppose Omar Khayyam, who surely knew what he was talking about, would have been long since suppressed by the Ayatollahs, may they be compelled in the after-life to subsist on Ribena for ever.

So here's to those intrepid searchers after truth, who carefully examined 275,000 people for 12 years, and came to the conclusion that a drink or two every day is good for you, which every sensible person has always known. Chesterton shall have the last word:

*The wine they drink in Paradise
They make in Haute Lorraine.
God brought it burning from the
To be a sign and signal rod
That they who drink the blood of
God
Shall never thirst again.*

Without a room of our own

Within hours of the removal men leaving Downing Street, Mrs Thatcher is due to vacate the elegant room at the Commons traditionally occupied by the prime minister. The suddenness of her departure from office has embarrassed the Westminster authorities, for no alternative accommodation befitting her new status is currently available.

As a stopgap, Mrs Thatcher is likely to be rushed into temporary offices outside the Commons. The authorities confirmed yesterday that no special facilities are set aside for former prime ministers, but promised: "We will try to ensure that she is not given the worst broom-cupboard we have."

With Downing Street officials insisting it was nothing to do with them, it was left to Labour MP Stan Orme, a former minister and currently chairman of the Commons accommodation sub-committee, to show his concern. "I admit there is a problem," he said. "We are very short of office space. Any difficulties over a suitable office will have to be brought to our committee. There are rooms available in the new building that is going up but they will not be available for some time. Frankly I don't know where she will go."

The Tory whip's office has been pressed into action to spare Mrs Thatcher's blushes and has come up with a temporary solution. "There will be a room for the prime minister after Wednesday," a spokesman says, but it will inevitably be of a makeshift and unsatisfactory nature.

The best prospect of preventing Mrs Thatcher being forced to dictate her letters in stuffy House of Commons corridors - as some humble backbenchers do - probably lies with her own supporters. Which of her colleagues has the gallantry to move out and give her a suitable new home?

As the second-round ballot for the next prime minister gets under way this morning in Westminster's committee room 12, a group of Thatcher's children will be gathered across Parliament Square in the Queen Elizabeth II centre for a six-hour conference entitled "Why bother voting?"

London's buzzing

Foreign correspondents working in London and used to a relaxed if not leisurely lifestyle have been thrown into overdrive by the Tory leadership contest. Most are enjoying being in the spotlight for once. Glen Frankel, of the Washington Post, was delighted to have his first front-page lead for almost six months with the news of Mrs Thatcher's resignation, and has now managed three page-one stories in a week.

"I have been working day and night. Whoever succeeds is also guaranteed front-page treatment," he says. "Mrs Thatcher, though, remains the real story in American eyes. She is where the human interest lies, because she is so well-known and so greatly admired."

Lutz Kruschke, London correspondent of Europe's biggest-selling magazine, *Der Spiegel*, has had a cover-story three weeks running. "It will be the lead again this week. This story is being discussed in Germany's pubs. The



DIARY

three candidates are almost unknown, but Germans want to know what line each would take towards the rest of Europe."

Only in Russia has Mrs Thatcher's resignation been virtually ignored. *Pravda* has mentioned it briefly in its roundup of international news, and the London-based *Soviet News* notes: "Hardly surprising," says its editor Dimitri Ardamatsky. "We have problems enough of our own without worrying about this."

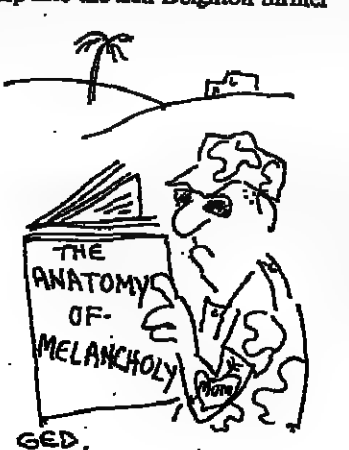
Answer this

The demolition of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany have yet to register on British Telecom's international charge-sheet. The latest declares that all EC countries are now in the lowest band, but while West Germany is in band one (46p a minute at peak times), Germany, Democratic Republic (East) is still listed in the more expensive band two (61p). "They will change eventually, but there have been administrative delays," a BT spokesman explains. Meanwhile, for anyone dialling Leipzig, the BT slogan "A call brings you closer together" has a slightly hollow ring.

Children will no doubt be able to help in translating the Road Dahl death notice in *The Times*. In it the family pay tribute to a "scrumpy-diddlyumptious" husband and a "wondercrump" father. All friends and acquaintances are invited to the funeral at Great Missenden on Thursday at, at his own request, there will be no "raucous" memorial service.

Arabian nights

As they wait for an increasingly likely war, how are American troops in the Gulf exercising their minds? With Pentagon-approved "book-kits", each consisting of 25 works to be shared among 200 soldiers. To get the adrenalin pumping, they can dip into the Len Deighton thriller



Spyline, to instil the bulldog spirit, there is a biography of Winston Churchill.

"The thought that someone, somewhere, is sending you books when you're sitting out there in the sand cheers you up," says Charles

Ralston, director of the US army library programme in Europe at Heidelberg, Germany.

Ralston, who saw active service in Vietnam, says titles need to be chosen with sensitivity to avoid anything that might undermine morale or would not be appreciated. "I remember one box of books arriving in Vietnam that was eagerly pounced upon. Detective novels by Dorothy L. Sayers were more than welcome - but not Dante's *Inferno*."

Lucky dip

One who is awaiting the announcement of tonight's second-ballot result more eagerly than most is Manchester businessman David Salmon, who last week paid the BBC's Children in Need appeal £3,750 for a privileged visit to Downing Street to meet the prime minister. He was the highest bidder in an auction organised by the BBC. "We were auctioning things that money can't usually buy," says the BBC's Gordon Adam. "We had to postpone it once because of political sensitivity, but we are now ready and waiting with a floating package to see who wins."

So whom does Salmon hope he has paid to meet as the next occupant of Number Ten? "I'm disappointed that it won't be Mrs Thatcher," he says. "I would have paid a lot more for her. The best value for my money now would be John Major, though as a loyal Conservative, I shall be happy to meet any of the three."

Salmon may not be quite so keen on another part of the package. Much of its need to show political impartiality, the BBC has included tea and Welsh cakes with the Kinlocks.



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BEST OF THREE

After the Week of The Panic came the Week of The Stab in the Back. Now comes the Week of Brotherly Love. The Conservative party is indeed a most remarkable political institution. After disposing of a leader of distinction in its customary brutal fashion, it is today all smiles. It is choosing both a leader and a prime minister from three candidates, each of whom is credible in both roles.

A leadership campaign, mercifully condensed into just a fortnight, has increased rather than diminished the stature of each of them. Last week *The Times* was tough on them all, implying that Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and John Major would all have a hard task in passing the tests of the campaign. All three had emphasised the similarities in policy between them — Mr Heseltine less than the others — thus throwing the argument back on to differences in personality. This posed an even more grueling test. Describing in advance the appropriate character for a prime minister is not easy: who in 1975 could have predicted Mrs Thatcher's 15 years of supremacy? Prime ministers are judged not on previous record but on a daily collision between their personalities and passing events and crises. For that there can be no adequate apprenticeship.

The three candidates have gone far to rebut the criticisms. Michael Heseltine was branded as divisive, temperamentally unsound and, by Mrs Thatcher, even a crypto-socialist. Certainly he embodied the forces that brought about her downfall, but her cabinet colleagues bear equal blame and she herself had been no mean regicide in 1975. Mr Heseltine may one day be seen as the man whose courage in opposing her on the first ballot jolted the party into a new election-winning era.

His early campaign was smooth, with four years out of office to present himself as a plausible alternative voice of Toryism. But he was meticulous not to fight a contentious campaign. His television performances have been impeccable and his potency as an electoral asset has been proved in the opinion polls, though his lead over his rivals in this respect has shortened.

Mrs Thatcher's characterisation of Mr Heseltine as a destroyer of all she created was unfair. His version of post-Thatcherism might be somewhat different from that of Messrs Hurd and Major — more activist in government, more internationalist in Europe — but the electorate is likely to perceive these as nuances. Mr Heseltine is not "too left wing" to be leader and he has been much the most sensitive advocate of the plight of provincial Britain, its cities and its local governments.

The problem for Mr Heseltine is one to which he has no answer: that he does not and will not attract loyalty from the ranks of the cabinet, loyalty that is necessary to effective government. In 1986, Mr Heseltine flamboyantly rebelled not only against his prime minister but also his colleagues over an issue which was comparatively unimportant. His reliability and sense of proportion under extreme pressure must be in question.

The members of the cabinet are strongly against him and will find it hard to have him back among their number — try as they should. Had Britain a presidential constitution, Mr Heseltine would be a good candidate. Ironically, he comes closest to his antagonist, Mrs Thatcher, in radical iconoclasm and possibly even as a free-market buccaneer. Those who want a repeat of Mrs Thatcher's temperamental idiosyncrasy may choose to go with him, but he has on his side neither youth nor the likelihood of team cohesion.

Mr Heseltine is a political exotic whose talents the party needs, but not at its head. As the past fortnight has shown, British politics is ultimately cabal politics. Mr Heseltine is not the man to unite either cabal or party. The new prime minister should set aside any hard feelings and return him to the environment

department, to see the rebirth of Britain's urban economy and of decentralised local government.

If Mr Heseltine has been wrongly cast as a leftwinger, Douglas Hurd has been wrongly cast as a Foreign Office wet. He has emerged from the campaign as a strong politician, experienced, assured, with a finger on the pulse of the Tory party. While his instincts are those of the mainstream, he would be a safe custodian of Mrs Thatcher's revolution. He saw at close quarters the mistakes of the Heath administration. He is shrewd enough to understand the importance of Thatcherism and the foolishness of abandoning its thrust.

Mr Hurd is no patrician has-been. His political astuteness has seen him successfully through the Northern Ireland office, the Home Office and the Foreign Office. He has felt the heat and survived it. His strength in foreign affairs would swiftly comfort allies stunned at the departure of Mrs Thatcher. He would unite a party still also stunned, and receive the loyalty of the cabinet and parliamentary party.

In every aspect of policy, Mr Hurd stands shoulder to shoulder with the third candidate, John Major. Like Mr Hurd, Mr Major has suffered from miscasting: in his case as the darling of the party's right and guardian of the ark of the covenant of Thatcherism. He enjoys the prime minister's favour. She has shepherded his career, it seems, from infancy. Like all the candidates, Mr Major recognises the importance of continuing, or at least appearing to continue, the course Mrs Thatcher set.

He also shares with her a lack of sympathy with what is left of the British establishment after the past decade. To this extent, he may be less orthodox than she was, with not even the Oxford-and-the-professors background that Mrs Thatcher brought to Downing Street. But those who know him do not see him as of the right, an epithet he has acquired largely by dint of serving at the Treasury. By inclination and intellect he sits on the left. The neo-Thatcherites are seriously mistaken if they think that Mr Major is either Mrs Thatcher's pooler or, by association, theirs in the future.

Between Mr Major and Mr Hurd, there is nothing of substance to choose on policy. Neither is a politician of an ideological cast. Mr Hurd writes novels, not tracts. Mr Major plays cricket. Both stand for the leadership on a firm platform of pragmatic Toryism. Both would say, with Disraeli, that finality is not the language of politics. Both would consolidate Mrs Thatcher's achievements and unify a party that has taken some hard pounding.

But there the similarity ends. Mr Hurd at 60 remains impressively vigorous and, were the Conservative party in need of a stop-gap, he would be an admirable choice. But his is the voice of the older generation in British politics. His language and his vision does not cut a dash in the 1990s. At the next election, the country should be offered a choice of men for the new decade. Mr Hurd is implausible in this role and suffers as the least electable of the three.

Mr Major has defects, described in these columns last Saturday. He is still a little-known quantity. Despite his youth, questions have been raised about his physical stamina and his capacity to resist pressure from his ever-enveloping advisers. Yet Mr Major's pitch is more than just as a consolidator. He has about him the aura of the post-Thatcher era, an urgency that there are still jobs for government to do, injustices still to be undone.

Mr Major understands the entanglements of the British economy and its public sector. He has shown himself aware of the shortcomings of Thatcherism as well as of its achievements. He is his own man, unassuming, likeable and direct. He has the humour and the wits to match all that Neil Kinnock's image-makers can throw at him, both in the House of Commons and on television. Mr Major is the best prime minister for the Conservatives to offer the nation in the 1990s.

POLISH CONFUSION

The result of the first round of the Polish presidential election has vindicated the pessimists. They gave a warning that Eastern Europe would not easily make the transition from solidarity in opposition to communism to ideological pluralism and parliamentary politics. To the understandable but naive desire for strong leadership, which gave about 40 per cent of the vote to Lech Walesa, has been added an even more dubious longing for a "third force", untainted by the past but with nothing but novelty to recommend it. The latter is represented by a Polish-Canadian adventurer, Stanislaw Tyminski, whose 24 per cent of the vote denied Mr Walesa outright victory.

Many Poles are as distressed by this result as are the nation's foreign admirers. Poland was, after all, the pioneer of liberation. Once installed 15 months ago, the Solidarity government was the first in the region to embark on an economic experiment, based on drastic deflation and wholesale privatisation. Now the Polish nation has delivered its provisional verdict on that tempestuous phase. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister, has been humiliated and may well resign.

Poland's difficulty is its necessary haste to accomplish the transition to a Western polity, based on the rule of law and individual rights, before the institutions of a civil society have had time to take root. Neither the old had time to take root, nor the liberal intelligentsia nomenklatura, nor the conservative around Mr Mazowiecki, nor the conservative trade unionists around Mr Walesa, amounts to an adequate political elite. Mr Tyminski, over an adequate political elite, there is an whose mental fitness for office there is an alarming question mark, appears to be a wealthy member of the Polish diaspora. It is from that quarter — the lost elite — that a nation in confusion may seek its salvation.

Poland is a society mourning the loss of its illusions. Mr Tyminski seems to fit a familiar stereotype: the self-exiled, self-made man who returns to rescue his homeland. That is a dangerous fantasy for any country.

Before condemning the country for rejecting the decency of Mr Mazowiecki so resoundingly, his weak qualifications for the job of prime minister have to be recalled. He was the

editor of a Catholic intellectual journal whose courage in opposition, friendship with the Pope and ability to "cohabit" with a communist president all commended him in the phase that has now ended. None of these qualities is relevant to the task ahead.

Mr Walesa is, by comparison, a political heavyweight: a household name throughout the world, a man of proven courage and shrewd tactical ability, displayed during a decade at the helm of the Solidarity movement. His huge popular following, to whose prejudices he panders shamelessly, makes him difficult to integrate into a modern democracy. Despite the rise of Mr Tyminski, among voters who feel they have nothing more to lose, Mr Walesa is still likely to win the second round on December 9. If he loses some support to his rival, he expects to gain most of Mr Mazowiecki's votes. His economic programme is an accelerated version of the present one.

Whether Mr Walesa deserves victory, after fighting such a frivolous campaign, is another matter. His exploitation of the government's unpopularity was ruthless. His refusal to stamp firmly on anti-Semitism, instead of evading the issue by insisting that "my ancestors were all Poles", was unworthy of a president. He likes to lecture his former friends, now in government, about the need to obtain democratic legitimisation for the painful transition to capitalism. That point is well taken. But Mr Walesa should first re-examine his own grasp of democracy: especially his deficient respect for the constitutional division of powers.

Having finally ejected General Jaruzelski, Poland does not need a reincarnation of Marshal Pilsudski. In the last few weeks, Mr Walesa has lost much of the stature he gained during the 1980s. The revision of the powers of the presidency requires urgent attention. But the limitation of those powers — particularly the right to declare a state of emergency and to issue decrees — must be a matter for the bicameral parliament and the courts, not for the new incumbent. The sooner a new, democratic parliament that is able to face the president on equal terms can be elected, the better for Poland.

Tory policies and personalities under scrutiny

From Mr Derek H. Sawbridge
Sir, As vice chairman of Mr Heseltine's constituency association I would like to make some points.

Mr Heseltine did not create the rift in the Tory party. He did, however, have the guts to stimulate this contest with the sole aim of reviving the party's fortunes and preventing an unthinkable Kinnock victory.

He had already set out his policies over a number of years and decided long ago that the community charge would lose the Tories the next general election.

He has the widest vision of Europe and will best promote the UK's interest alongside our EC partners and has the best chance to instil fresh confidence in the business community.

He has the charisma to recapture the lost votes of the North, the floaters and the youngsters, and most important of all he can provide vote-catching policies, unite the party and win the next election.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK H. SAWBRIDGE,
Graphics House,
Newtown Road,
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire.
November 26.

From Mr Hugh Dudley Jones
Sir, The neat and simple way would be to put Hurd in No. 10 and Heseltine in the Foreign Office and leave everyone else as they are: an easy way of achieving unity, balance and continuity.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DUDLEY JONES,
Bryncennan,
Llandell, Dyfed.
November 24.

From Mr Stuart Sexton
Sir, A straw poll of 50 Conservative party workers and supporters in this Cumbrian constituency showed 92 per cent were anti-Heseltine but would unite behind either Hurd or Major, with a slight preference for Major. Cumbria is surely "the north of England". Heseltine is not welcome in the North.

Yours faithfully,
STUART SEXTON,
8 Harpers Lane,
Greysouthen,
Cockermouth, Cumbria.
November 23.

From Sir James Watt
Sir, Despite Mrs Thatcher's shortcomings, the Conservative party has behaved disgracefully. The naked ambitions of individuals have been matched only by the sickening hypocrisy with which they have praised their fallen leader's qualities.

Whatever the result of the forthcoming contest, we can expect a return to the consensus, compromise and fudge which were characteristic of pre-Thatcher politics and responsible for Britain's post-war decline.

A party which has lost all sense of integrity is clearly unfit to govern. In such circumstances, the Conservative voter is confronted with a painful decision. He may merely withhold his support at the next election, or he may feel obliged to transfer his allegiance to the best means of calling to account the Tory mafia who, unlike Mrs Thatcher, have put individual and party interests above those of the nation.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WATT,
7 Cambridge Church Road,
Wimbledon Village, SW19.
November 23.

Poll tax at the heart of supporters' discontent

From Councillor David Conway
Sir, On December 13 1984, when I was a backbench Conservative councillor, you published a letter from me in which I predicted that the new proposals to allow the government to cap rates would lead to the reduction of local government to the status of spending agents for the civil service.

Six years later, I am deputy leader of my council, with responsibility for finance policy, and facing the absurd situation whereby Enfield's expenditure is capped, not because it is in any way an over-spender, but at the very level at which the government says it ought to be spending. So much for local accountability.

As is the way with government finance, what began as a norm has become a straitjacket, in which the limbs of local democracy show alarming signs of withering. Scanning the policies of the three contenders for Tory leadership to see how they might animate me, and the many hundreds of Conservative councillors throughout the country whose support for the government over recent years has been rewarded with little more than a mild disdain, I notice much spouting about reform of community charge.

I read nothing as to whether any

From Mr John Chawner and Dr Ian Bogle
Sir, Exit polls at the Eastbourne by-election showed changes to the health service to be top of all concerns shared by the electorate and other national polls confirm this. The three Conservative candidates have all promised to review another unpopular measure, the poll tax, and a new prime minister might be wise similarly to review the NHS changes.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHAWNER (Chairman, central consultants and specialists committee),
IAN BOGLE (Chairman, general medical services committee),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
November 26.

From Mr Mark Tennant
Sir, Mrs Thatcher and her government have been seen by many as uncaring and often the failures of the health service are cited as an example.

How memories are short! If you were ill in 1979 you might not get to a hospital because of public transport strikes. If you did arrive, you might not be treated because the ancillary services were in dispute. If you died there might be no one to bury you, with the grave diggers on strike.

What a long way we have come in those 11 glorious years. Mrs Thatcher dragged us from the abyss and we have rewarded her by dumping her. What a nation! I sometimes wonder why anyone with a grain of common sense wants to lead us.

Yours faithfully,
MARK TENNANT,
Hill House,
Dunfermline, Fife.
November 23.

From Mr Chapman Pincher
Sir, To a conspiratorially-minded person like me and, I find, to many others, the way in which Margaret Thatcher has disposed presents an intriguing question: was there any degree of collusion between Sir Geoffrey Howe and Michael Heseltine, direct or indirect, prior to the presentation of Sir Geoffrey's lethal speech?

Sir Geoffrey's open support of Mr Heseltine has intensified interest in the question. Perhaps they will use your columns to put the answer on historical record.

Yours sincerely,
CHAPMAN PINCHER,
Church House, 16 Church Street,
Kintbury,
Newbury, Berkshire.
November 25.

From Father John Buckley
Sir, Despite the burden of office, Mrs Thatcher never for one moment neglected the ordinary people of Finchley. The time, attention and care she gave to her constituency was remarkable.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BUCKLEY,
St Alban's Presbytery,
51 Nether Street,
Finchley, N12.
November 23.

From Mr Geoffrey Noble
Sir, John Major will work to bring about a classless society by the year 2002? Abolish royalty? No House of Lords?

Yours faithfully,
G. NOBLE,
6 Laurel Drive,
Timperley, Cheshire.
November 25.

From Mrs Susan Watson
Sir, All three candidates are committed to a review of the poll tax. Surely what is needed is a review of the role of local government and how it should be financed. By all means let local authorities be responsible to their electorates for the services over which they have control. For services imposed by central government, central government should take the responsibility.

How much of local government is truly local?
Yours sincerely,
SUSAN WATSON,
The Glebe House,
Little Kimble,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
November 24.

the government. Secondly, it reveals a serious misunderstanding of the causes of the mobility of resources.

Labour will migrate from the UK insofar as real wages and the quality of life are perceived to be higher elsewhere; capital will move to secure its highest real rate of return. Economists of all camps concur that a separate currency will not provide a means to avoid this (would a separate currency for the Scottish Highlands have saved that region?)

A separate currency gives a country the right of an indepen-

From Councillor N. I. C. Powrie
Sir, It is imperative that the election of our party leader be removed forthwith from the hands of MPs. Whilst the views of members throughout the country were canvassed and, I assume, passed on to the "men in grey suits", they would seem to have had little or no effect. The constituency associations and party members must be allowed a democratic voice and vote in this important process.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL I. C. POWRIE
(Deputy Conservative group leader),
City of Dundee District Council,
City Chambers,
Dundee.
November 23.

From Mr A. H. P. Humphrey
Sir, I hope that Oxford University will now make overdue amends and offer Mrs Thatcher an honorary doctorate.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. P. HUMPHREY,
14 Ambrose Place,
Worthing, Sussex.
November 24.

From Mr Michael Brook
Sir, Mrs Thatcher was subjected to market forces within the parliamentary Conservative party and found wanting. Under Thatcherism, lame ducks are not indulged with compassion, they are put to the sword. There may be sadness and irony in her going, but the manner of it was wholly consistent with her policies.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROOK,
55c Beckwith Road, SE24.
November 23.

From Mrs S. Newall
Sir, Will someone please explain why we are being subjected to so much electioneering by the three prospective candidates to leadership of the Conservative party when we have no vote?

Yours faithfully,
S. NEWALL,
Luckin Cottage, Affpuddle,
Dorchester, Dorset.

From Mrs Elisabeth Sandys
Sir, It is reassuring to realise that London Transport apparently exacts such high standards from its would-be bus conductors (report, November 26). It is also reassuring to know that we live in a country where one of its failed applicants, Mr John Major, some 25 years later can be seriously considered as an excellent choice for our next prime minister.

It's a "funny old world" indeed — but isn't it great that we live in a country that's free enough and open enough for such anomalies to occur, and is this not a praiseworthy example of the fruits of Thatcherism?

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH SANDYS,
Charnwood, Shackleford,
Godalming, Surrey.
November 26.

From Mr A. J. Sillton
Sir, I suggest that in the interest of speed and party unity the Tory party should follow the example of the last World Cup and decide its leadership election on penalties.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STILTON,
Sherwood Cottage, The Compa,
Kinner,
Nr Stourbridge, West Midlands.
November 26.

From the Reverend Eric Richards
Sir, The poll tax was bulldozed through under Mrs Thatcher's leadership, as cabinet ministers fell by the wayside. The true devastation of the tax on society has as yet hardly surfaced.

Those who were prepared to remain in the cabinet during these last years, who were promoted within it, or supported the poll tax in public, seem unlikely to bring about the changes needed to give the public any confidence in the Conservative party.

That leaves Michael Heseltine. Yours,
ERIC RICHARDS,
The Vicar's House,
Hutton Buscel,
Scarborough,
North Yorkshire.
November 26.

From Mr R. P. Cole
Sir, Are we to understand from their statements on the community charge that all three candidates in the leadership contest are for turning? What kind of choice is that?

Yours faithfully,
R. P. COLE,
4 The Gazings, Gazing Lane,
West Wellow,
Hampshire.
November 24.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
B. MCCORMICK,
Southampton University,
Department of Economics,
Southampton, Hampshire.
November 20.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Criteria for a 'just war'

From the Bishop of Oxford
Sir, Professor Collinson (November 17) criticises the Archbishop of Canterbury for deferring too exclusively to the "Christian principle of a just war", but there is nothing exclusively Christian about these principles. They belong to the tradition of natural-law thinking, which is designed to appeal to the moral conscience of everyone of whatever religion or nationality.

Anyone who tries to think about the morality of warfare will find themselves adopting a set of criteria akin to that systematised by the "just-war" tradition. The Archbishop of Canterbury in his statesman-like presidential address to the General Synod of the Church of England (report, November 16) referred specifically to two of the criteria which must be met if a war is to be counted as just.

First, all peaceful means of resolving a dispute must first have been exhausted and secondly, taking into account the possibility of horrific casualties, to which Professor Collinson refers, war could, as a last resort, be the lesser of two evils. These criteria are relevant to Arab, American and European.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD OXON,
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey, Oxford.
November 20.

Middle East issues

From Lord Kilbracken
Sir, Dr Brian Boughton (November 19) describes Saddam Hussein's deployment of "human shields" hostages as "a practical and effective move to protect his own interests". Yet there has never been any indication that US or allied bombing tactics would be inhibited to the smallest extent by the knowledge that western hostages may be located in target areas.

This would remain the case even if such targets had been identified. The policy is therefore not only illegal and despicable but wholly ineffective.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

From Dr E. A. Cole
Sir, If we are to have a post-Kuwait general settlement in the Middle East, including the Palestinian problem, we would be less than just if we did not also insist on a settlement of the Kurdish problem.

Yours faithfully,
E. A. COLE,
7 Quebec Street,
Langley Park, Durham.

Training in industry

From Dr D. J. Hill
Sir, In view of the poor rating that the UK gets for training and research and development in industry, would it not be timely for the government to take the following measures?

First, to immediately arrange for personal tax relief on training course fees and, secondly, consider a mandatory proportion of company profits to be spent on training and R&D.

These measures for investment would not be costly compared with the benefit to the whole nation. Our nation cannot, it seems, safely rely on companies to invest themselves in the training and R&D that this country needs. The measures suggested are ones used by governments of other countries to help create a prosperous business environment.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HILL,
University of Bristol,
Department for Continuing Education,
Wills Memorial Building,
Queen's Road,
Bristol, Avon.
November 19.

Parcel post

From Major R. J. de V. Wade
Sir, Unfortunately Mr Child of Parcelforce (November 12) omits the worst threat included in the card left by his drivers in this area. This says that parcels unclaimed within three weeks will be returned to the senders.

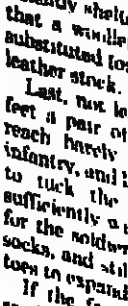
How unfortunate for people who are away from home on business or holiday. I simply cannot understand why our local parcel depot refuses to leave the parcels at our village post office — as the GPO used to do.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES WADE,
9 Catherine Close,
Shirvenham, Swindon.

Playing our tune

From Mr Henry R. Magrill
Sir, Britain's standing within the European Community must be higher than recent publicity would suggest. On telephoning the Commission in Brussels today I was pleased to discover that when one is put on hold, the music played is "Greensleeves".

Yours faithfully,
HENRY R. MAGRILL
(Commercial Director),
Proflex,
25-27 School Lane,
Bushey, Hertfordshire.
November 21.



Taking to Manolo's heels

Manolo Blahnik has been clothing women's feet in provocative, sexy shoes for 16 years. Liz Smith discovers some of the sources of his inspiration

A taffeta sandal, crystal and pearl drop tassels twinkling on the silken strap that arches over the front of the shoe, is propped up on a rocco bracket on the wall of Manolo Blahnik's shoebox-sized shop in London. A look of theatrical shock flickers across Mr Blahnik's handsome features as I enthuse over a pair of the jewelled sandals, price £300. "Seventeen pairs sold in 25 minutes when I was in Neiman Marcus last month," he says in disbelief. "I was so scared, meeting all those ladies with the long nails and the face-lifts. But they bought. Did they buy?"

Of course they did. Seventeen more women hooked on the delight of seeing their feet seized shod; 17 more, fortunate fans who can afford to luxuriate in wearing feather-light shoes, joining the ranks of Manolo Blahnik shoe collectors. Paloma Picasso, Bianca Jagger, Lucy Ferry and Madonna are very ahead of them, of course, able to count their Blahnik shoes by the hundred. Tina Chow has just delivered a decade of her Blahnik shoes to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, along with some of her vintage Fortuny and Balenciaga dresses. But even less affluent fashion followers admit to remarkable tallies of 15 or 20 pairs, even if they are bought in the sales.

"Thank God I have not become an institution. The young kids wait for my January sale. I love that."

Manolo Blahnik shoes have never been merely complementary to fashion. In the 16 years he has been in the business his designs, perfectly balanced and crafted, stand on their own two stiletto heels as a fashion phenomenon in their own right. There is undoubtedly a sense of coquetry in any woman who chooses to wear a shoe that simply wraps her foot in two bands of glossy satin, and whose jewelled tassels rattle as she crosses her legs. But if there is a fission of the erotic in his sleek suede or satin stiletto-heeled pumps, he claims to be unaware of it. "I love sexy shoes. They seem to trigger in people who wear them a feeling of provocation and elegance. But a hint of eroticism? Ah no, that I do not get," he says.

Mr Blahnik's Czech and Spanish ancestry is evident in his air of dandified elegance. What distinguishes him from all other men in dark suits is not just the grid of red overchecks on his navy worsted, but the precise splay of his checked tie over pink and white striped Jermyn Street shirt, and the nonchalance of his half-buttoned cream cashmere waistcoat.

Born in the Canary Islands, Mr Blahnik studied literature and art in Geneva. Launching himself in 1968 on to the international fashion circuit with a portfolio of theatre and accessory designs, he discovered that everyone to whom he showed them, from Cecil Beaton in London to Diana Vreeland in New York, instantly focused on the shoe designs.

In 1972 he borrowed enough money to acquire a tiny flower shop off the King's Road, which he turned into London's most chic shoe emporium, and which has been his base ever since. His shoes also sell in his own



Prince Charming plus slipper: Manolo Blahnik with black suede pump offset by a purple suede and rhinestone buckle

shop in Manhattan, as well as stores around America. A replica of the London shop has just opened in Hong Kong. "It's doing divine, thank God," he says.

In 1988 he was honoured with a CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America) award. But he is proudest of last month's honour — a British Fashion Council award, rare for an accessory designer.

His cultural roots, visible in his shoe designs, almost shaped him into a talented couturier instead. "For a moment I thought maybe I should do dresses. But what I do I want to do well, and I didn't have the guts," he says. Instead he has collaborated with the best in New York and London. He supplies gladiator sandals in yellow lizard or slivers of black patent on teetering sling-back heels to go with the latest collections of Bill Blass or Isaac Mizrahi in New York, or Jasper Conran in London.

The design of a shoe evolves from

the first sketch, followed by a technical drawing. He always cuts the first sample shoe himself. "That took me seven years to learn. It is more complicated than making a dress, but this you have to be able to do yourself," he says, handling a green plastic last and pasting over it the thick masking tape on which he creates a design. When this is peeled off it provides the pattern from which the shoes will be cut.

Ideas flow constantly. A piece of cloth, or even a whiff of scent, can trigger a whole collection. This year's inspiration came while "watching a hideous movie on a plane". His idol is André Perugia, the Parisian shoe designer who created shoes for Poiret and Schiaparelli — "so feminine and sexy, lots of whimsy".

The sumptuous brocade, braid trimmings and sombre blacks and purples of Velázquez paintings inspire Mr Blahnik's collection for this winter. Light and shade are reflected in

strips of suede stitched together in alternate directions of nap, creating subtle differences in the shade. A black suede pump is offset by a purple suede buckle edged in rhinestone. A brocade shoe rises on the vamp (the front part of the upper of a shoe) into a simple brocade medallion rimmed with a ruff of pleated satin. A shoe in matt black silk marocain is trimmed with a thick ridge of pompon tassels in a deep shade of rose. A pair of shoes costs on average £200, but prices can start at £100 for a strappy Capri sandal. Boots start at £375 and go up to £425. The shoe he holds in the photograph costs £240.

Samples of next season's shoes nestle in scarlet moiré-lined display trays. Coral tassels trim black silk ottoman mules. Capri sandals in black patent, Roman sandals in yellow lizard, gold chiffon and satin mules on tiny spindly heels; there are delectable treats in store for his dedicated customers.

Misadventures in the skin game

Tattoos worn by Russia's criminal underclass are a sign of defiance and a means of identification

RUSSIA'S criminal fraternity has emerged, bloodied but unbowed, from more than seven decades of communist witch-hunts to reclaim its traditional place in society. The Blatnog Mir had preyed on Russian society from the late Middle Ages until it fell on hard times when the communists consigned its members to the Gulag.

In the dying days of communism, black marketeering, violent crime, blackmail, extortion, drug peddling and prostitution are rife. No lesser authority than Vadim Balakin, the Soviet interior minister, backed by Vladimir Kryuchkov, the KGB chief, claims that the Soviet Union is flourishing in a wave of organised crime. It appears that some members of Blatnog, released from the labour camps, are back in business.

However, many Blatnog members are still incarcerated, easily identified by their tattoos, the insignia of the criminal fraternity. A collection of these tattoos provides a coded history of the inmates' tribulations in the labour camps and their distorted view of the outside world.

They have been catalogued by Davizh Sergeyevich Baldyev, a retired police major who, as part of his duties, had access to the inmates. But, as the son of a political prisoner himself, he also showed unusual compassion for the prisoners of the Gulag, whether political or criminal.

His art college training helped him to copy and capture all the finer points of political and artistic detail of this unusual form of "camp art".

Major Baldyev's well-catalogued archive of Gulag tattoos has found its way to the south Hungarian city of Szeged — near the headquarters of the Soviet Southern Army Group — where it was published by two Hungarian sociologists under the title of *Tattooed Stalin*. In spite of glasnost, it has not been published in the Soviet Union.

The Blatnog Mir view is harsh, crude and inhuman, as befits the descendants of a medieval guild of thieves, and the tattoos well reflect this. Given their contempt for the property-owning classes, whom they consider sub-



Drawn to hatred: tattoos sported by Blatnog Mir members

humans to be disposed of at will, members of the Blatnog Mir were initially regarded as "class brethren" by the Bolsheviks, who thought they could be enlisted in the battle against private ownership.

In the end, however, they were clapped in the Gulag, where they were entrusted with the torture and liquidation of political prisoners. The Blatnog tattoos reflect their loathing of communism as much as their harsh and cruel view of life. A standard tattoo, bearing the legend "The beastly face of capitalism", portrays Marx with the Devil's horns. Other members had likenesses of Lenin or Stalin — with the caption "The boss of the socialist camp" — tattooed on their chest in the hope that this would save them from execution.

The Blatnog Mir has turned the symbols of the outside world into its own coded motifs: the church is portrayed as a prison; Christ is shown as a naked woman writhing on the cross; love is debased to coupling with the male horned and cloven-footed. One favourite, displayed on the forearm by those who had committed a serious crime for a woman, shows the Devil and a woman.

The old prejudices — in the form of anti-Semitic cartoons and a curious respect for the old tsarist regime — live on in the camps, despite the horrors of the Soviet Gulag.

One popular tattoo, always on the chest, shows a handsome Tsar Nicholas II with the legend, "Beat the Jew, save Mother Russia". Anti-Semites apparently sport Hitler's likeness on their chest with the caption, "Jews' Godfather, or Hell's stretcher-bearer".

Other examples of Gulag aesthetics include the winged child, with serpent and a heart and doves, decorating a chest or back; and the face of a pretty woman on the shoulder. One rather surprising tattoo urges, "Respect the power of authority" — and shows a lion, surrounded by a dagger, mace, flag and bow.

Major Baldyev's collection also reveals the tattooed desperation of collectivised peasants — depicted as skeletons — and of the emaciated political prisoners of the Arctic camps. One features a man pushing a barrow of stones, "A Negro prisoner of Kolyva", who has his dying wish tattooed on his chest: "Shoot, Comrade, I cannot bear it any longer".

GABRIEL RONAY

Put your rooms in a spin

Old ballet costumes have leapt on to chairs and walls

COSTUME design seems an unlikely starting point for creating curtain material and upholstery fabric. But Ballets Russes costume graphics from the Twenties have inspired a new fabric and wallpaper collection, available shortly.

In the hands of Neisha Crosland, a textile graduate from the Royal College of Art, the rich mix of geometrics, organic abstract shapes, florals, circles, plaids, stripes and spots which typify the costumes are translated into the Carnival Collection — named after Diaghilev's ballet.

"Although the collection is influenced by what was going on in the Twenties and Thirties — in particular the costume designs I came across in an old Sotheby's catalogue — I feel I have put together a thoroughly contemporary look," Ms Crosland says.

The four large fabric designs in the collection, commissioned by Harlequin, comprise a Russian peasant theme, a clean-looking floral on stripes, an elegant chintz floral and a random star with spring design. The eight smaller motifs range from rustic sprigs on checks to a spotted design influenced by American ties of the Fifties. All the fabrics are dual-purpose for curtaining and upholstery.

"These are quite sophisticated designs which could easily sell for £60 a metre in upmarket outlets," Ms Crosland says. "I wish they weren't as expensive as £20 a metre, but I wasn't prepared to compromise completely on my designs and colours."

NICOLE SWENGLEY
For local stockists of Harlequin's Carnival Collection, telephone 0509 816575.

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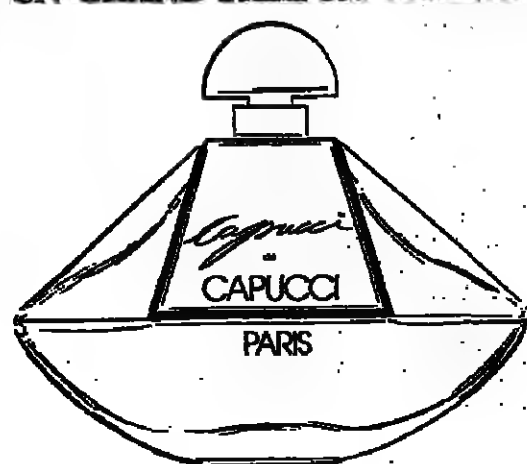
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EXHIBITIONS

Friendly invader

Whenver Emil Torday felt danger threaten on his journeys through the Congo, he produced some clockwork elephants bought from Hamley's. Like a conjuror performing a mysterious feat, he would set them off with a theatrical flourish, and the resourceful Torday, a Hungarian anthropologist studying the region on behalf of the British Museum, rapidly became renowned for his magical powers.

However laughable his trick may now appear, it was for Torday infinitely preferable to travelling with firearms. His great German rival, Leo Frobenius, who acquired such impressive African collections for the Berlin museums, brandished revolvers and rifles. But Torday always preferred a pacific approach. In 1906 he had, after all, resigned from his job with a Belgian trading company because of its ruthless treatment of the Congolese.

Torday could not stomach the killing and mutilation carried out by the Belgian king's agents. During the reign of Leopold II, as many as five million Congolese may have been murdered for failing to supply enough rubber for the Antwerp markets. Butchery was widely regarded as inevitable in the "Dark Continent", but Torday was committed to the gentle and enlightened study of African culture.

After arriving in the Congo for the first time in March 1900, he soon capitulated to the fascination of the region. Exploring, learning local languages and living with native people made him realise that "I had not the slightest desire to see Europe again, and if it had been possible I would have stayed on for the rest of my life." He was able to establish an informal yet mutually gratifying relationship with the British Museum. On the strength of this, he returned to the Congo in 1907 on an ambitious expedition, determined to conduct a comprehensive ethnographic survey of the area.

He succeeded to an astonishing extent. Over the next couple of years he assembled a collection of over 3,000 objects from the southern reaches of the equatorial forest. As a new show at the Museum of Mankind (part of the

An almost forgotten European explorer's achievements 90 years ago in Africa are celebrated anew, Richard Cork reports

British Museum) is about to disclose, the acquisitions include some of the most outstanding carvings produced in Africa, as well as a profusion of richly embellished wood implements, metalwork and textiles.

For their part, the museum authorities were delighted. They had become increasingly alarmed by the size and quality of the African collections in Berlin. One expert warned that "if, 100 years hence, English anthropologists have to go to Germany to study the remains of those who were once our subject races, we shall owe this humiliation to the supineness of England." Torday set about rectifying the imbalance between Britain and Germany with aplomb. "I think that the old curiosity shop of Bloomsbury may still take its place with the Great Berlin Museum."

Yet Torday refused to regard himself solely as a gatherer of objects. He remarked, after dispatching to London a package of particularly rare acquisitions, that "if it gets lost on the way, I blow my brains out." But he never lost sight of the wider significance of the collection, and his sympathetic participation in the lives of the Congolese ensured that he pioneered a wholly new approach to documentary fieldwork in Africa.

Unlike Frobenius, who kept his distance from the people he interrogated and viewed them as inferior beings, Torday made every effort to treat the Congolese with cordial informality. His manifest affection for Africans did not blind him to their occasional defects: cannibalism still existed, and he reported on one ruler who habitually hoisted himself up from a seated position by plunging knives into his slaves' backs.

But Torday never allowed such knowledge to impair his sympathetic engagement with the people he studied. After he prevented chief Kikungulu from burying a neighbour alive, the thwarted murderer attempted to poison Torday and kill him with arrows. Undaunted, Torday wrote to London: "At any rate, mark this: I collect the arrows for you." Even when crossing untraversed territory, he confounded the fears of a friend at the museum: "I suppose you have heard that Torday and his companions have been killed and eaten by the Bushilele? I hope you are quite well."

As John Mack makes clear in the excellent publication accompanying the new exhibition, Torday's ability to enjoy a close relationship with Kwete, the King of the Kuba, resulted in his most outstanding acquisitions. The three carved king figures at the centre of the collection could not have been purchased without first earning Kwete's trust. Aloof and imperious, they preside with effortless authority.

The Kuba believed that these figures embodied the principles of kingship, and after a vigorous rubbing with oil they were believed to retain the spirit of royalty in the capital even when the king himself was away. Torday was only able to acquire them by explaining to Kwete that the figures "will go to the big house I have mentioned, and there remain for all time as evidence of the skill and greatness of your race".

Both he and the British Museum honoured that promise, and when the collection was displayed in the Ethnography Galleries it profoundly impressed artists like Derain, Epstein and the young Henry Moore. Their response bore out Torday's own fundamental belief in the stature of African culture, and all his efforts as an anthropologist were dedicated to bringing about its proper recognition. This Museum of Mankind exhibition should rescue him from an obscurity he does not deserve.

Images of Africa: Emil Torday and the Art of the Congo 1900-1909 is at the Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London W1 (071-437 2224) from Friday. There is no admission charge.



Authority embodied: Shyamba Mbidi Ngonzo, founder of the Kuba kingdom, is the subject of this wood figure

CLASSICAL MUSIC: HUDDERSFIELD

Sinister banality

If any composer is representative of the contemporary Soviet Union — increasingly seen as an artificial assemblage encompassing vastly different cultures — it is Alfred Schnittke. His 56th birthday was celebrated with a cake and a highly effective concert on the first weekend of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.

Schnittke's art radiates towering authority and originality. It resembles Shostakovich's in some respects, but with the limitations imposed by totalitarianism removed. As does Shostakovich, Schnittke often expresses bleak emotions, usually in surprising ways. His debt to Mahler is also made clear in the sinister flavour of the music's banality. The cantata *Faust* (1982-3), is a case in point. Though traditional in form — there are recitatives, arias and chorales — its *coup de théâtre*, when Mephistopheles appears among the audience and sings a sleazy tango, is brilliant.

Justin Lavender (the Narrator), John Tomlinson and Paul Eswood (both Dr Faustus), and, especially, Fiona Kimm (Mephistopheles) sang with aptly grim purpose, while the English Northern Philharmonia, required to make some massive sounds in music evoking a procession to the scaffold, played with confidence. The Huddersfield Choral Society relished its contribution, though there were occasional insecurities, partly because of Gennady Rozhdestvensky's spirited, rather than accurate, conducting.

Before this was Schnittke's Fourth Violin Concerto (1984) and *Ritual For Orchestra* (1984-5). In the concerto, another vastly orchestrated work, Schnittke's tactic again is to overstate to a degree where, at the climax, the soloist finds no sounds to match his passions, so can only mime. Passages which evoke a warm, romantic sensibility vie with those of a more outré, indeed cacophonous, expression, there is delicacy and ugliness, good manners and rudeness. But ultimately the work is about agonised self-confrontation. György Pauk, the soloist, played that role marvellously, though when the crisis came his gestures were more puppet-like than tortured.

The most powerful of the three pieces, however, was *Ritual*, composed "in memory of the victims

of the second world war". Its intensity brings to mind the flavour of Lutoslawski's *Funeral Music*. Slow, low beginnings lead to a traumatic crisis, and the ending, using the same basic musical emblems, is a high-pitched apotheosis that effectively exploits the sounds of delicate metallic percussion.

Equally eloquent, though its extremes are more brutally contrasted, was the same composer's ruminative Piano Sonata, beautifully played by Viktoria Postnikova in an afternoon concert which included Shostakovich's four-hand arrangement of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*, for which Postnikova was joined by Schnittke's wife, Irina.

The following day saw a bewildering variety of music in a concert given by young musicians from the Gnessin School in Moscow. Much of it was merely functional, though some, like Darina Shakhbaron's Seven Piano Pieces for Children, and Firuz Bakhor's Three Folk Songs, were deliciously simple and charming. Later the spotlight turned to new music from Lithuania. The New Music Ensemble of Vilnius's recital ended with two fascinating pieces by Bronius Kutavicius, the oratorio *From the Javainian Stone* and *Magic Circle of Sanskrit*, both of which involved ceremonial physical groupings, meditative chanting, and the use of some original instrumentation — stones, nail violins, crumhorns, and so on.

In Glasgow last week the latest of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's sequence of Strathclyde Concertos was unveiled by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under the composer's own direction. The fourth in the sequence is for clarinet, and its dedicatee, Lewis Morrison, tackled it bravely without completely mastering its more technically demanding passages. The concerto's journey towards its climax — a folkish tune by another Morrison which the composer coincidentally heard when he was thinking about the piece — is unequivocally in Davies's new manner: predominantly slow and sonorous, and growing from a beautiful, atmospheric if spare beginning, redolent of Sibelius.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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RADIO

Dangerous ride for a disc-jockey

THERE are two possible explanations for the existence of the Radio 2 Arts Programme (Sunday). One is the technical consideration that a broadcast magazine devoted mostly to talk will necessarily reduce the total percentage of "needle time" on a wavelength mostly given over to playing records; the other — is that a programme with the sonorous word "arts" in its title may be seen as apologising for Radio 2's hundreds of hours of pop.

My excuse for reviewing it at all is that it is currently embarked on a moderately ambitious two-part overview of popular music. This may be useful to the extent that it persuades listeners that the extruded aural syrup in which the waveband trades did not emerge fully formed from an ageing disc-jockey's brow; that, in other words, even the most anodyne

music has its roots in something altogether more vital. Taking as his "starting point" the publication of *The Faber Companion to 20th Century Music* (which has not found universal approval), Brian Matthew catechised a roll-call of experts in given fields: musicals, folk music, jazz and so on.

First in the frame was Andrew Lamb, connoisseur of musicals, but before even him came Thomas Edison and his celebrated rendition of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" (1887), with crackles oblige. Anything that Edison could do, Matthew could do equally well; and everywhere that Matthew went, Lamb was sure to go. "Glad you mentioned minstrel-shows there," the presenter ad-libbed as he steered his pet charge into yet another well-grazed pasture of musical lore. At the Old Bailey this kind of technique

would elicit howls of protest from the opposition; in the world of radio it passes without comment.

But Matthew's opening examination of his next expert witness, Jim Lloyd, deserves to be carved above the portals of Broadcasting House. It went: "Jim, can you give me your thoughts, as we get towards the end of this century, on folk music as a sort of genre?" the sentence hunching towards its false emphasis like a drunken benjo player.

As we get nearer the end of the century, Jim gave Brian his thoughts. He told him, for example, that the grand old man of English folklorists, Cecil Sharp, had collected traditional British folk songs in the Appalachians. This bald news was saluted by a joint exclamation of "Indignant breath" from the Matthews and Lloyd nostrils, as though it represented a watershed in the annals of

musicology. And yet the crucial point of Sharp's endeavours is that he had to visit the backwoods of America to find those folk melodies in a modally pure form; in their native land they had long been corrupted by the major-minor influence of music-hall. That influence, evidently, lingers on.

Some weeks ago I recommended Arthur — The King (Radio 4, Sunday) as a gamey and inventive drama in which Simon Faux's electronic music complemented script in a creative partnership (or words to that effect). The series has now lapsed into a rather awkward Dark Ages soap opera — *At Home with the Camelots*, perhaps — and Faux's excellent score seems to have gone absent without leave.

MARTIN CROPPER

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Brutal, sophisticated ritual

THESE two records together offer something from every decade of Boulez's composing life, from the 1940s to the 1980s. Indeed, *Le visage nuptial* almost does that single-handed, since this immense erotic torrent was first composed in 1946 for two female voices, then adapted during 1950-51 for large forces, and finally reconceived in 1988-9 for the same complement of soprano and mezzo soloists with female chorus and orchestra.

As later with *Le soleil des eaux* (also included here) and *Le mariage sans maître*, Boulez found René Clair's yoking of arcane imagery with rite passion perfectly suited to the inseparable mixture of sophistication and brutality in his music. *Le visage nuptial* is a virtuoso rant: a work crammed with insidious sounds whipped along by violence. But the work is curiously diffi-

Boulez: Le visage nuptial, Le soleil des eaux, Figures-Double-Primes, Soloists, BSC Singers, BBC SO/Boulez. Erno/WEA 2292-45494-2
Boulez: Ritual, Messiaen, Messiaen, Orchestre de Paris/Barenboim. Erno/WEA 2292-45493-2

cult to place. By nature it is a young man's piece, and yet the execution has the orchestral finesse of a thoroughly practised hand: the doubtless is that of the *Notations* recorded on the other disc, and again the notionally definitive score can sound like a supremely distinguished arrangement rather than an original work. Nevertheless, *Le visage nuptial* is now one of Boulez's largest achievements, and it demands to be heard, especially when it comes not only with *Le soleil des eaux* (where the languour and the

energy are separated into distinct movements) but also with *Figures-Double-Primes*, a fascinating, inspiring orchestral voyage of the late 1950s and 1960s.

The second record is less essential. *Ritual*, a solemn memorial for choruses of instruments with percussion timekeepers, has already been recorded by Boulez himself, and there is an Abbado version of the *Notations* (though neither conductor handles these miniatures for huge orchestra quite in the way of Simon Rattle or the composer himself). Also, *Messiaen*, a 1976 score for an ensemble of cellos, is hardly more than an occasional piece. But it is good that suddenly we now have almost all Boulez's acknowledged works on CD: the single outstanding lack is a recording of his *Livre* for string quartet.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

TimeOut

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BRIEFING

On your Marks?

LUCKY for Dame Alicia Markova that she is so fit, because this week will be a constant round of engagements marking her eightieth birthday. Tonight, the eminent ballerina will be present at Manchester's Palace Theatre for a royal gala performance in her honour presented by English National Ballet, the company she co-founded 40 years ago. On Sunday, she attends another royal gala, this time at Sadler's Wells Theatre, which will bring together dancers from around the world in celebration.

On Friday, Markova receives the 1991 Premio Porselli Award, an Italian award presented annually to a person whose life has been devoted to dance. Then, if she has any energy left, she can always celebrate privately on Saturday, the day of her actual birthday. Or perhaps she might prefer just to sit back and put up her famous feet?

Hand-biting

MICHAEL Caton-Jones, the young film director of *Scandal* and *Memphis Belle* fame, is set to make a big splash as Hollywood's latest British conquest. He has been assigned to direct the screen adaptation of one of the most corrosive novels about the movie capital — *What Makes Sammy Run?* Budd Schulberg's novel, published in 1941, tells of Sammy Glick, a Lower East Side kid who claws his way to the top of the heap as a Hollywood producer in the Thirties.

Pit preview

THERE was some surprise last year when Sir Peter Maxwell Davies took the baton for

Alicia Markova in 1963 in *Les Sylphides*

the Glyndebourne Touring Opera production of *The Marriage of Figaro*; what was this distinguished composer doing as Simon Rattle's deputy? Perhaps some explanation lies in the fact that Davies has been asked to write an opera for Glyndebourne, to be given when the new house opens. This will not, however, be the St Francis opera which he has been promising for some years, and which perhaps would sit less comfortably with the interval picnic.

Last chance...

THE Almeida Theatre's *Bohème* will not be moving into the West End like its predecessor, the dazzling production of *The Rehearsal*. It is hard to imagine any play by Racine transferring to a larger theatre, even in France; but within the smaller, chapel-like interior of the Almeida (071-359 4404) the love problems of Prince Bejazet, imprisoned within the royal harem in Constantinople, look sumptuously, suffocatingly right. The production's final performance is on Saturday.

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to, to top everything, this programme is
Belgian. Michael Eghoff is joined
by Lionel Jeffries and Susanah York.
(Crackle)

News at Ten with Alastair Burnet
and Julia Somerville 10.30 Thames
news and weather
News Update 9.0. Sinead O'Connor
announces the series of special
programmes (the looks at the
traditions and faces of Acts in British
sport). Sports Special. Nick Owen
presents highlights from three of the
tournament's Roundabouts League Cup
fourth round matches involving first
division clubs
Fusion: Cell Block N. Manned-up
prisoners also act in a female detention
centre. Followed by News headlines
The Twilight Zone: Shearwater.
John Wiles says Jay Novins, a man
who absent-mindedly made his home
number and received a surprise when it
was answered by Jay Novins (V)
The View. Mariella Frostrup
presents on the occasion in this
edition of the show is new to rent and
on the video scene. Followed by
News headlines
Raymond Chess. Raymond Keene,
chess correspondent of *The Times*,
reports on the world championship
and the Chess Olympiad
Theatricals. Interview with
the actress from the States, with stories,
interviews and interviews
The Donor. Phil Donahue talks to
women who refuse to wear make-up
Followed by News headlines
The Evening News. UK. Fast news
programme from the latest in arts and
entertainment from all over the



Chamberlain as Fitzgerald (10.5pm)

ent involved big budget bore, a television film by George Schaefer as scenes from the turbulent marriage of Fitzgerald and his playboy wife, Zelda, against a backdrop of one of his short stories such as a lightly disguised account of their first meeting. The juxtaposition of fact and fiction is an effective device which enables the writer to be confronted by his own version of events. Richard Chamberlain and Blythe Danner play the real Fitzgeralds, as David Huffman and Susan Brandon appear as their fictional counterparts.

Four-Milestones UK: Prophet and Poet. An animated version of the mythic and Eurydice story.

Showtime at the Apollo. Variety hour with comedy, music, dancing and more talent from New York's Apollo Theatre, hosted by the Fat Boys, with Paula Abdul and Sheryl Lee.

Five-Milestones UK: Three Experimental Works from Young Film Makers. Ends at 1.50

Rec'd 10:30 SportsCenter 10:30 Live! RAC
Sat 11:00 The Morning Wraping 12:00
Rec'd Today 12:30m SportsCenter 1:00
NFL: American Football

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8:00am The Day Today 8:15 Gateway
8:45 The Day Today 9:00 The Day Today 9:15
The Jane Wintress Show 10:00 Left,
Right and Center 10:30 American 11:00
News 12:00 The Day Today
European Business Today 12:45 VP 1:00
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Gateway 9:45 News Letter 10:00 Your World
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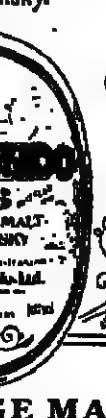
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AGE MALT

EC urged to investigate board price rises

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PRINTING companies in Britain are calling on the European Commission to investigate proposed price increases by a number of carton board suppliers in Europe, to determine whether the planned rises contravene European law.

While the British Printing Industries Federation is stopping short of suggesting that there is a price-fixing cartel in operation, it is providing the commission with evidence of 23 price increases of similar levels, about £40 a tonne, and similar notification and planned implementation dates.

Pricing of carton board is critical

to the operation of many British printing companies. Sixty per cent of the 600,000 tonnes of carton board used by British printers each year is imported, mainly from the European Community and Scandinavia. The value of board used is about £300 million annually.

In a submission to the commission, the federation says: "The general UK printing industry, in line with the UK economy, is in deep recession and will be severely handicapped by any sharp rise in its input costs." While the British carton printing industry is suffering less, the BPIF says it will be impossible for it to pass on to its customers any price increases planned for January.

Requesting an investigation by the commission, the BPIF says: "We believe there is evidence to suggest that some European carton board suppliers may have acted in contravention of article 85 and/or article 86 of the Treaty of Rome."

The first article prohibits company decisions that restrict or distort competition, while the second rules against companies in dominant market positions imposing unfair selling prices.

In a letter to the commission, Sham Leslie, the BPIF commercial director, says: "Although we must accept that certain factors relevant to board producers are common (e.g. they are all affected, to a greater

or lesser extent, by increases in oil prices), we do not believe the overall impact of all the various factors is so uniform that the prices should rise by virtually identical amounts at virtually the same time."

In a separate move, the BPIF warns the government that Britain's entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism will not, by itself, relieve upwards pressure on wages.

In a budget submission to John Major, the Chancellor, the BPIF says that the impact on inflation of the cut in mortgage rates is insufficient to counter the inflationary effects of the increase in housing equity value. The reduction in interest rates will transfer spending

power from savers. The BPIF also gives warning that the campaign to curb pay increases in manufacturing can succeed only if other sectors not constrained by a strong currency also practice restraint. The government must keep public-sector pay low.

The federation calls for the government to take further measures to encourage personal savings, to review value-added tax to make the tax collectable on payments received for goods and services and not on invoiced sales, to restrict mortgage interest tax relief, to reduce employers' national insurance contributions and to cut the rate of corporation tax.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Burmah Castrol bid for Foseco approved

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has cleared Burmah Castrol's £237 million hostile takeover bid for Foseco, the specialty chemicals group. The 275p-a-share cash offer was also approved by shareholders of Burmah Castrol at an extraordinary meeting.

Lawrence Urquhart, chairman and chief executive of Burmah Castrol, said Foseco's defence document, published last week, had taken a particularly poor year as the base year from which to measure performance. "This cannot disguise the fact that earnings per share in 1990 will be lower in real terms than in 1980," Foseco shares fell 2p to 281p yesterday. Shares in Burmah Castrol rose 5p to 460p.

Cropper rises to £971,000

SHARES in James Cropper, the Kendal paper and board maker, advanced 20p to 120p after the company unveiled taxable profits up from £581,000 to £971,000 in the half year to September 29. The company said that the increase in profits was a result of a full order book and a peak in pulp prices. The interim dividend is 0.975p (0.875p).

Lees sweeter at £225,000

JOHN J Lees, the Scottish confectionery group, lifted pre-tax profits by 48 per cent to £225,000 in the six months to end-September, on turnover ahead by 23 per cent to £3.11 million. Earnings rose from 1.48p to 2.1p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.75p. Andrew Sim, chairman, said the medium-term growth prospects were good.

No payout at Regal

REGAL Hotel Group, the USM provincial hotel company which reversed into Rivoli Cinemas a year ago, incurred pre-tax losses of £1.75 million during the six months to July 1.

There was a loss of 16.5p a share and no interim dividend is being paid. Directors gave warning that they do not expect to recommend a full-year dividend. After the takeover, comparable figures for the first half of the previous financial year are not available. During the nine months to end-December the enlarged company suffered losses of £1.2 million before tax and a loss of 11.35p a share. It said results were affected by loss of trade due to substantial refurbishment to three hotels and a rise in interest charges from £790,000 to £983,000.

P J Carroll back in black

P J Carroll, the Irish cigarette maker, which was the subject of a £119 million (£108.6 million) agreed bid from Rothmans International in October, unveiled pre-tax profits of £12.51 million in the six months to end-September, against losses of £12.26 million last time. Earnings per share were 6.5p, (2.8p loss). There is no interim dividend.

Nestor-BNA's American post

JAMES Elmie, ex-president and chief executive of American Nursing Resources, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of MRA Staffing Systems, American subsidiary of Nestor-BNA, the healthcare services and specialist personnel group. Nestor said the group continues to perform in line with expectations.

Vital day for Walker

TODAY is make-or-break day for George Walker, the man who built up the Brent Walker leisure and property group and who must now find £27 million of his own money to ensure its survival. His personal investment vehicle, Birdcage Walk, which owns about 24 per cent of the company, has agreed to put £27.3 million into the controversial £103 million convertible bond issue.

A refinancing package with the group's banks, who are owed £1.4 billion, stands or falls by the bond issue. Birdcage Walk was expected to have come up with some of the money a week ago.

Buyout for Ashley subsidiary

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LAURA Ashley is continuing its restructuring with the disposal of non-core businesses. The group has disposed of Bryant of Scotland, the knitwear manufacturer, to its management for an undisclosed sum.

Bryant, based in Tilioucoutry, near Allos, and employing 160 people, exports cashmere and knitwear to America, Japan, Italy and France. The sale is being backed by 31, the Scottish Development Agency and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The management will have a controlling interest, with the SDA and 31 holding equity stakes. Royal Bank of Scotland will provide the loan facility.

The disposals follow Laura Ashley's £50 million restructuring which involved Acorn, the Japanese group, taking a 15 per cent stake. It has sold other non-core businesses such as Penhaligon, the perfume business, and is expected to sell Units, the cotton stretch clothing retailer, later this year. The group's shares fell 2p to 67p.

Merrydown ahead 14% to £1.03m

By MICHAEL TATE

MERRYDOWN Wine, the Sussex cider and honey group, is lifting its interim dividend 12.5 per cent from 0.9p to 1p a share following a 14 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.03 million in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share rose from 9.15p to 10.41p after adjusting for last year's scrip issue.

Cider sales, well ahead in the first three months, continued the trend in the second quarter, helped by the fine summer weather, said Roy Hooper, the chairman. Merrydown Vintage ciders outperformed the market as a whole. Second half prospects depend on the Christmas season.

The benefits of the distribution agreement with Showers are not expected to be seen for two years. The group is having success in Europe, where it is building a distribution system.

Property firm gives warning

By MARTIN BARROW

PROPERTY Partnership, the East Anglia property developer and hotelier, has given warning that current-year profits are unlikely to exceed the £2.32 million before tax for the previous 12 months.

Paul Raymond King, chairman, said that rental income was likely to grow at a more moderate pace than in previous years, while the company's two hotels in Norwich were expected to continue to suffer from the downturn in consumer spending.

The company returned pre-tax profits of £1.07 million for the half year to the end of September, against £1.16 million for the first half of the previous financial year. Earnings fell from 6.98p a share to 6.49p. The interim dividend is increased from 2.25p a share to 2.45p.

Guinness Mahon loses £7.5m

By ANGELA MACKAY

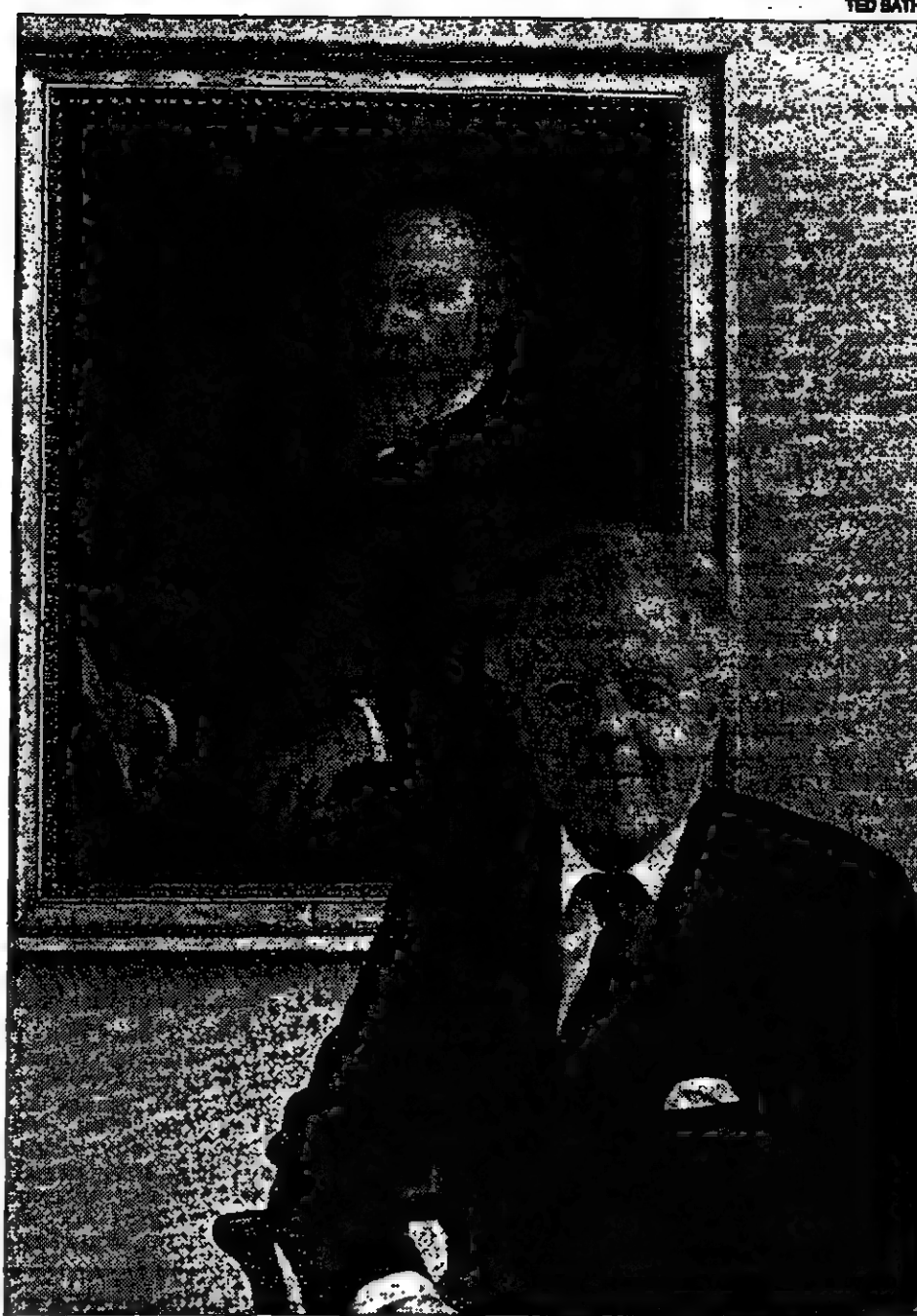
A WORSE than expected loss of £7.5 million after tax and extraordinary costs from Guinness Mahon Holdings reflected a cross-section of the problems besetting merchant banks and stockbrokers, ranging from increased bad debt provisions to low stock market turnover and even lower commercial property prices.

Sharply higher debt provisions related to the collapse of Blackspur, the computer leasing business, and the appointment of administrators to Polly Peck International, increased transfers to inner reserves from £1.2 million to £8 million for the year ended September 30.

In the previous year, Guinness Mahon, which has had Bank of Yokohama as its biggest shareholder since July 1989, reported a profit of £2 million, despite heavy extraordinary charges.

This year, extraordinary charges of almost £4 million also took their toll on the merchant bank. The closure of White Cheesman & Co, the bank's equities market-making arm, cost £1.04 million, and the bank spent another £2.9 million on withdrawing from property development.

Geoffrey Bell, the chairman, said just over £8 million had been transferred to inner reserves to provide for the exposure to PPL, Blackspur and other bad and doubtful



Debt provision: Bell with a portrait of Henry Guinness, a 19th century director

Pressure rising for tougher water rules says group chief

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SIR MICHAEL Straker, chairman of Northumbrian Water Group, has told shareholders that the regulatory environment in the water industry is becoming tougher and that there is "increasing pressure to achieve more rigorous compliance standards".

Northumbrian is spending £10 million on two long sea sewage outfalls, allowed for in its capital programme, but the National Rivers Authority, which must approve the new installations, now wants more systematic pre-treatment of sewage, in line with European regulations that have yet to be adopted. Ian Byatt, director-general of Ofwat, the

financial regulator, is anxious to avoid new costs being passed through to customers before the five-year price review.

Northumbrian declared a slightly higher than expected interim dividend of 6.2p per share. Since the company's policy is for the interim payment to be one third of the total, this implied a 16 per cent rise.

Pre-tax profits of £23.1 million for the six months to end-September were, as expected, well down on the pro forma £39 million last time.

Turnover rose 6.5 per cent to £83.2 million but operating costs increased £18 million to

£68 million, reflecting transitional changes and 120 extra staff for the investment programme.

Water shares later fell back, leaving Northumbrian 5p down on the day at 274p. Michael Sayers, of Salomon Brothers, said this reflected the implications of veiled threats from regulators at a time when water shares were buoyant.

But Lakis Athanasios, of UBS Phillips & Drew, blamed the general market downturn. "It remains to be seen how soon the regulatory risk will come into the market's consciousness," he said.

Temper, page 29



Umbrella weather: Sir Michael Straker, Northumbrian Water Group chairman

Chairman resigns at Savage

By PHILIP BASSETT

TONY Philpott has been confirmed as chief executive of Savage Group, the United Securities Market hardware supplier, after Nicholas Savage, chairman, and David Brown, chief executive, resigned as directors. David Stephens, the finance director, who was also under pressure to step down, has not resigned.

The group recently reported a collapse in profits from £7.29 million to just £51,000 in the year to end-June, after a surge in interest charges as well as exceptional reorganisation and redundancy costs.

Accounts delayed

Sempermove, the loss-making Third Market fruit and vegetable preservative maker, said its accounts for the year to end-March 1990 will be delayed. The company intends to seek a quote on the United Securities Market and blames the delays on the required preparation and submission of "extensive additional information".

More drams

Invergordon Distillers, the Scottish whisky company, is adding the Findlater brand of whisky to its stable, which already includes Isle of Jura and Original Mackinlay. Invergordon is paying £2.5 million for 95 per cent of Findlater Scotch Whisky from Findlater Mackie Todd.

Colroy approach

Shares in Colroy, the regional housebuilder, jumped 42p to 160p after the company said it had received a possible bid approach. Last Friday Colroy shares rose 11p to 118p.

Bangemann gives warning on Gatt

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community's most senior industry official has given a warning that Europe could "lose the motor of its economic growth" if the Uruguay round of world trade talks fails apart.

Martin Bangemann, European commissioner for industrial policy and the single market, said that if four days of general agreement on tariffs and trade talks in Brussels next week fail to make progress on establishing a barrier-free trading system, European industry could be among the first to suffer.

It is perhaps the sternest warning yet to come from a top official of the community, which has been pilloried by America and other trading nations for blocking the talks by its refusal to concede over agriculture.

The community has generally reserved its rhetoric for Washington to fend off American attacks of intervention over cuts in farm subsidies. But by giving a warning of the perils of a retreat into protectionism and damaging bilateral deals if the Gatt talks fail, Herr Bangemann has revealed deep divisions in the community.

Industrial interests are also at stake besides agriculture, he said during a meeting of EC industry ministers. With 20 per cent of world trade generated by community business, ahead of both America, at 15 per cent, and Japan, at 12 per cent, "we would be in the front line if the talks fail".

The community above all others needs tight, multilateral rules, with clear safeguards to protect its own interests and a solid common forum for settling trade disputes, he added.

MMEC axes payout

By PHILIP PANGALOS

OF £136 million for 1989. A three-for-two rights issue of 39.9 million A ordinary shares, at 5p per share, is to raise about £2 million. Parties interested in about 29 per cent of the issue have agreed to take up rights, and the balance is underwritten by Greg Middleton.

Simon Southall will step down as chairman, though remain as an executive director, and Peter Southall, his father, will resign from the board on December 31. John Adams is the new chairman.

Tour firm tries to ease fears

By MARTIN BARROW

OWNERS Abroad, the tour operator and charter airline, has issued an unscheduled trading statement in an effort to allay City fears about the impact of sharply higher fuel costs.

Howard Klein, chairman, said the company had completed arrangements to hedge more than 80 per cent of its requirements for jet fuel for its tour operations during the current winter season and for next summer. As a result, no surcharges would be required to protect previously costed profit margins.

Mr Klein said 50 per cent of the winter tour operating programme, substantially enlarged following the £54 million acquisition of Redwing, had already been sold at a higher proportion than at the same stage of 1989.

Bookings for summer 1991 were in line with last summer but better margins were being achieved.

Air 2000, the company's airline, is negotiating a short-term lease for a Boeing 757-200, to be based at Gatwick, which would complete a fleet of ten aircraft for 1991.

Shares in Owners Abroad have suffered since Iraq invaded Kuwait, sending oil prices sharply higher. Having traded at 61p in early August, the shares were yesterday worth 40p, up 27p on Friday's close.

Analysts have forecast pre-tax profits of £17 million for the year to end-October, against £13.4 million in the previous 12 months.

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Goldilocks is one of the three bears

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Last Friday, the John Major bandwagon rolled through the City and put 45 points onto the FT-SE 100 share index. The dream ticket so far as the City was concerned was to have two chancellors, one in Number 10 and the other next door, maintaining the integrity of the pound and keeping the corporatists at bay.

Yesterday, the market reversed by a similar amount during the course of the day, turning an early gain into a loss at the close. The reasons for the reverse were, as usual, a mixture of gut feeling and lack of business, rather than keen analysis or intellectual insight. When it comes to politics, markets exhibit a curious mixture of blatant self-interest and naivety.

As Kenneth Flett pointed out in his column in *The Times* on Saturday, the City has just waved farewell, if not goodbye, to the most pro-market prime minister any of the current generation of dealers and fund managers has ever seen, or will see again. Yet, since Sir Geoffrey Howe lit the fuse of the bomb which was to blow her to political kingdom

come, the market has risen a hundred points or more.

In fact, although the market has a reasonably clear view of the leader it would like, the outcome of the leadership election this week will not send share prices spinning either way. The political turmoil of the last two weeks was already discounted in share prices ahead of the event: so is the outcome of the leadership election. Prices might give a thirty-point cheer for John Major, or a twenty-five point thumbs-down if the economically unknown Douglas Hurd calls for the removal men. If it is Michael Heseltine, the worry about his interventionist tendencies might be countered by his electability.

But if the business economists are anywhere near right in their forecasts to be presented to their annual conference today, all three contenders can be nothing other than bearish.

The economists, who work at

the elbows of chief executives of the biggest companies in the land rather than closeted in dreaming spires, are quite clear: recession is the inevitable result of the "severe financial retrenchment of the corporate sector". Stocks are to be cut by the best part of £5 billion and investment is falling by 10 per cent. The corporate sector financial deficit of £18 billion in the first half of this year tells its own story. Companies are getting ever deeper into debt, and the cost of servicing the bank at current levels of interest rates is a greater priority than investment.

Thus it is not only pay awards that are pricing Britain out of export markets. Productivity will suffer as investment is curtailed and economies of scale are

progressively lost. This is the outlook for most of the coming year and it is not until 1992, when the winning candidate has to face a more testing election, that the economy will be properly on the mend.

Well before then, however, the market will have discounted the upturn.

Fluid oil

The great American financier J Pierpont Morgan, when pressed to deliver his judgment on the outlook for common stocks in the midst of uncertainty, replied with the eternal truth that markets would continue to fluctuate. Not much

more can be said of the oil price as the war clouds gather over the Gulf except that it will rise if the tanks begin to roll and fall when peace is restored.

The Centre for Global Energy Studies, on various assumptions, forecasts 1991 prices as high as \$100 per barrel and as low as \$13.

Having surged to \$40 and relapsed to \$30, crude prices are now coping with the uneasy reality that time is running out for Iraq. Yesterday's \$2 hike cast a pall over London and Wall Street with Iraq showing no signs of willingness to consider a negotiated settlement.

The CGES report points out that the long awaited signs of a slowdown in demand due to the sharp price rises seen since June 1989 are now clearly visible. This would aggravate the problem of reaching agreement on production cuts, especially by Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, to accommodate a return to normal in the oilfields of Iraq and

Kuwait. The CGES pricing model suggests that it would be difficult to maintain prices above \$15 by the final quarter of next year and that \$13 is a possibility following a negotiated settlement.

If the allies miss their weather window for military action and the stalemate continues throughout 1991, the crucial influences on oil prices will be further weakening of demand, coupled with the growing output of Opec members, minus Iraq and Kuwait. The outlook on a stalemate basis is for steady decline to about \$20 by end 1991.

If war breaks out, oil could reach average monthly rates of \$70 with a possible \$100 peak, according to CGES, with strategic stockpiles released thereafter to assist a return to normal production.

But the key conclusion for oil companies, their customers and investors is that by the end of next year, oil will be considerably cheaper than today and that the glut which so preoccupied Opec nations before the invasion of Kuwait will return again to haunt them.

Reaching for handkerchiefs as airline fuel costs take off



Praying for an upturn: Lord King of British Airways

AIRLINES have long been regarded as the world's economic barometer, with their financial results responding instantly to any change in the world's economic health.

Now the barometer is firmly on "stormy", having plunged in the past few months. In 1988, the 200 members of the International Air Transport Association made a combined profit of \$1.6 billion, hardly a bonanza but enough to trigger orders for 1,600 jets and predictions of a rosy future.

But by the end of last year those predictions were looking optimistic at best as their overall profit fell to \$300 million, just 0.4 per cent return on revenue. This year, estimates of combined losses of \$2 billion will almost certainly be overtaken.

Even British Airways, which last week reported half-year profits of £320 million, is preparing for a second half that will at best break even and could result in a loss.

If BA sneezes, it is said, everyone else already has influenza. "We don't yet have the sniffles, but we're reaching for a handkerchief," said Lord King, the chairman.

Now BA plans cost-cutting to limit the damage. But its rivals are facing virtual disaster unless the Gulf confrontation is settled soon. The main problem is fuel costs, which have more than doubled in the past three months. Even though they have put up fares to compensate, the 6 per cent average rise does not cover additional costs and can be counter-productive as companies order their staff to trade down to club class from first and economy class club. Many airlines were in trouble before the Kuwait invasion.

SWISSAIR: In the first half of 1990, profits plunged to SwF70 million (£28.3 million) from SwF215 million a year earlier. It blamed the fall on 14 per cent higher costs and a falling average load factor.

SAS: By the end of last year, profits had fallen by 38 per cent to \$238 million from \$384 in the preceding year. Although passenger numbers rose, new aircraft added to interest costs and sent the

average number of seats occupied down to 65 per cent from 67 per cent a year earlier.

SABENA: The Belgian carrier with which British Airways still hopes to form a new European airline also carried more passengers, but lost \$37.5 million in 1989, blaming strikes and competition.

LUFTHANSA: The German carrier lost \$1.93 million in the first half with an operating loss of about \$200 million. It blames currency movements, poor cargo revenues and flight delays.

KLM: In the quarter to September 30, the Dutch airline's profits fell by 61.9 per cent against the same period last year, leaving a three-month profit, the first of which was unaffected by the Gulf, of \$35 million. It said exchange rates, fuel, insurance premiums, and interest rates were responsible.

IBERIA: The Spanish state carrier's profits fell last year by 74 per cent to \$60 million due to a strike that put 15 per cent on wages costs.

ALITALIA: The Italian state airline recorded a \$12.2 million loss last year compared with a small profit in the

preceding year. Bad weather and strikes were blamed.

UTA: The French independent had profits halved to \$16 million in the first half and blamed the cost of developing new routes to New York.

US AIR: In the third quarter of this year, the airline had an operating loss of \$142.9 million and a net loss of \$111.1 million. Fuel prices were the culprit. US Air used only 1.2 per cent more fuel but it cost 25.1 per cent more.

DELTA: In the three months to September, Delta lost \$73.6 million on its operations and had a net loss overall of \$51.6 million. It blamed an extra \$78.1 million in costs, just 2 per cent passenger growth and fuel price rises.

PAN AM CORP: The parent company of Pan Am made an operating profit of \$19.5 million, but a net loss of \$29.1 million in the third quarter. Pan Am World Airways itself lost \$29.2 million.

NORTHWEST: With fuel costing \$79 million more in the third quarter, revenues rising 10.7 per cent but operating expenses up by 15.7 per cent, it predicts a fourth-quarter loss against a \$91 million third-quarter profit.

TWA: It managed a profit of \$1.9 million in the first nine months, but lost \$14.7 million in the third quarter.

CONTINENTAL: Fuel costs in the third quarter were \$70 million more than "in normal circumstances". As a result, even before interest charges were added, it made a net loss of \$26.9 million in the quarter.

AMERICAN: Even the big US airline has not been immune. Robert Crandall, chairman, said unless the company sees a decrease in fuel prices, it will almost certainly suffer a fourth-quarter loss large enough to create a loss for the entire year.

While the airlines hope for an early end to the Gulf problems, their employees are bracing themselves for inevitable redundancies and possible collapse of several international airlines.

HARVEY ELLIOTT
Air Correspondent

Northumbrian up to water mark

TEMPUS

NORTHUMBRIAN Water is justifying the clamour of small investors a year ago, which ensured its rise from third from bottom to about average in the water share table. The interim dividend signals a 16 per cent rise in the total for the year, which would put the shares on a yield of 7.2 per cent in fully paid form.

That rise is consonant with a relatively low initial dividend and growth projected in leaks before privatisation but is about two points above the expected average rise for the sector. Most of the sector has yet to report, so that gap could still narrow since some others will have been helped by high interest rates on their initial cash balances and lower than expected inflation in the construction industry.

The dividend is, in this case, more important than the profit. In the six months to end-September, pre-tax profits were well up on a crude comparison but down more than a third on the pro-forma figures after the privatisation capital settlement. Both movements largely reflect transitional factors, including taking on more staff to cope

with the investment programme.

For the year, Northumbrian should make about £45 million pre-tax, down from a pro-forma £55 million. Earnings of about 60p a share will leave huge short-term cover for the expected 18.6p dividend and continuing real growth.

The results may be more significant in the light of the accompanying message on regulatory risks, which are rapidly becoming reality.

Northumbrian, and some others, are coming under pressure from the National Rivers Authority to upgrade their planned new sewage outfalls while Ofwat, the financial regulator, is anxious to avoid passing through new qualifying costs in higher prices before the five-year review of price limits.

Even then, there are signs that Ofwat may seek to offset extra costs of higher standards against efficiency gains on the investment programme and windfall savings.

There is little cause to worry

here. The message, rather, is to treat outperformance in dividends over the expected steady real growth as no more than a short-term bonus. This leaves water shares as excellent defensive counters, as their strength in weak markets has testified. They should not be chased too far in the upturn, except where that reflects lower interest rates.

Vibroplant

VIBROPLANT shares have little to recommend them at this stage in the construction cycle. Profits are crashing while debt remains high. Vibroplant is a small company in a tucked-away sector and stock market interest is at a low ebb. Family holdings speak for more than half the company, pretty well ruling out an opportunistic bid.

Investors who stumped up 200p a share in the May rights issue last year have seen the shares' value slump by more than half. They edged ahead 1p to 76p yesterday on news of interim pre-tax profits down

from £7.31 million to £4.7 million.

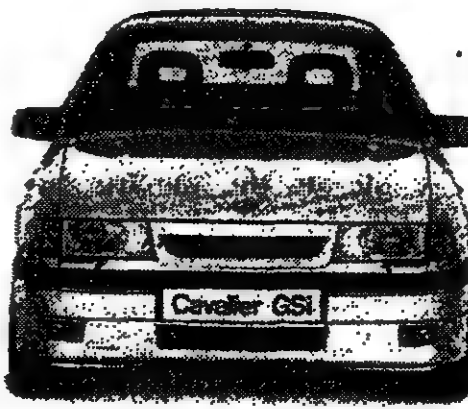
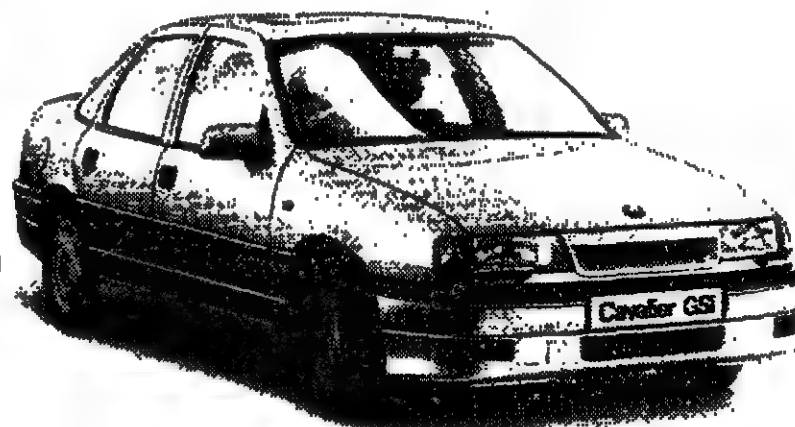
That rights issue was aimed at cutting borrowings but gearing will be back at 80 per cent at the end of the financial year. The result is a severe pruning of capital spending, now set to fall to a quarter of last year's level by 1992.

Vibroplant has expanded in North America, cutting its reliance on Florida and California by moving into the east coast and Midwest, but hard times in those two states and the translation effect of the low dollar left pre-tax profits in America £190,000 lower at £1.16 million.

The board is understandably gloomy on prospects for Britain, given the continued difficulties for housebuilders and the oversupply of commercial space, and it is clear that second-half profits overall are unlikely to match those made in the first, even with a better performance from across the Atlantic.

Assuming £7.5 million pre-tax, the shares change hands at about seven times earnings. A maintained final dividend offers a prospective yield of 6.4 per cent. Still far too early to buy.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Capel suffers loss of Ross

JAMES ROSS, the electrical analyst put rated by Eitel for three successive years — and one of the youngest in his sector ever to hold the crown — has resigned from James Capel to take up a position at Hoare Govett. Ross, who left the firm on Friday and has three months to his new appointment, plans to make the most of every minute. "I leave next week for Aspen, Colorado, and plan to do as much skiing as possible," says Ross, aged 30, who began his career as a journalist on *Electrical Review* before joining Capel in 1985. "I'd been in stockbroking five years and felt it was time for a change." When he settles in at Broadgate in February, he will work with Bruce McIntyre, an assistant director, and Bob Pringle, director and deputy head of research, who is to take on more of an executive role. Hoare Govett, nearing completion of its management buyout, is using the promise of an old-style partnership culture to lure recruits. Nick Anthill, European oil analyst, and Matthew Stainer, shipping and transportation analyst, joined from County NatWest in September, and at least two more appointments are likely by Christmas.

Back at the crease EIGHT months after he stepped down as chairman and chief executive of James

Capel, marking one of the more significant departures in the Square Mile, this year, Peter Quinnen is back in the market. He has resurfaced as non-executive chairman of Frew Dale Macmaster, an investor relations company partly run by Richard Dale, former number one Eitel agencies analyst at James Capel. Quinnen, aged 45, who has kept a low profile since leaving the City in March, plans to take on a number of non-executive posts, but will not rush back into a senior post. Having spent much of the summer "watching cricket", he leaves soon for Australia, where he hopes to observe the locals heroes' play at close hand.

Debt in death

PETER BECKWITH, a senior executive in Alan Bond's corporate empire until his death in July, died a bankrupt, according to a ruling in Perth

Bankruptcy Court. Beckwith, a former managing director of Bond Corp Holdings, and one of the triumvirate of Beckwith, Bond and Tony Oates, the finance director, left debts of more than Aus\$5.5 million (£2.15 million), even though shareholders had voted over to him Aus\$10 million to secure his future services to the company three years ago. Documents lodged with the court showed Aus\$8,614 was owed for Mr Beckwith's funeral, with another Aus\$2 million owed to Speedley Securities, the Australian finance house that collapsed last year. Mr Beckwith's luxurious home, valued at Aus\$15 million, was beyond the reach of creditors since it was listed in his wife's name. Assets listed as having no value included 213,706 shares in Bond Corp, Alan Bond's flagship company, which is being sold off to pay debts.

A count for heir

CHARTERED accountants, in common with many City financiers, tend to look after their own when the going gets tough. But a rift seems to have developed over today's leadership election, according to Harrison Willis, the financial recruitment consultant, which has been prying into the background of some of the candidates. Of 16 chartered accountants in the House of Commons, six back John Major. Three of the accountants MPs are backing Douglas Hurd, while only two have said they will vote for Michael

Heseltine, who was briefly arrested to Peat Marwick but failed to say the word. Five have not made up their minds. Of further significance is Major's remark, made on ITV's *Walden Special*, that he was "not running as son of Margaret Thatcher". Mark Thatcher, as it happens, was arrested to Touche Ross — but did not qualify.

Barely bearing up

REGULAR readers of *Playboy* magazine will get a different kind of eye-opener when the January edition appears today. Lee Iacocca, head of Chrysler, the American car maker, is baring all in an interview about his political ambitions — to run the American economy. The man who once saved Chrysler from almost certain bankruptcy, is renowned for sharp criticism of Japanese corporate tactics, but has always denied any political ambitions, now says he nurtures a dream to be the president's right-hand man running the country. "The first thing is that we have to start living within our means. We should produce more and consume less... then we can start digging our way out of this hole and not be so dependent on Japanese money," said Iacocca, aged 66. The interview was conducted before joint-venture talks with Fiat fell flat — and before Chrysler lost \$214 million in the three months to the end of September.

JON ASHWORTH



Portfolio

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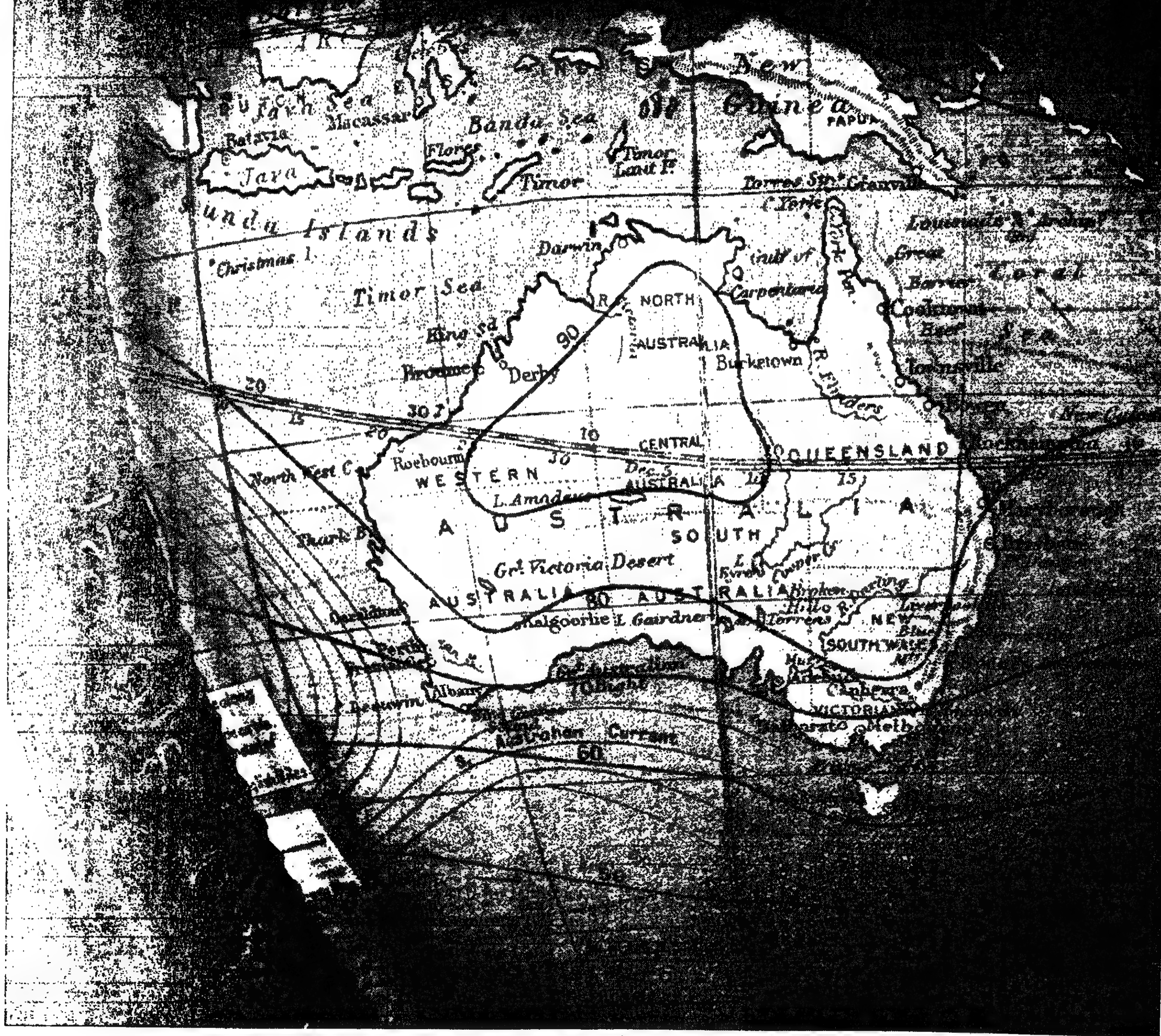
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Rank	Artist	Weeks on chart	Peak position	Label
173	Angie B. Parks	388	251	8.0
250	BAB (ex)	391	435	4.5
251	B. Williams (ex)	391	435	4.5
252	B. Williams (ex)	391	435	4.5
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299	B. Williams (ex)	391	435	4.5
300	B. Williams (ex)	391	435	4.5

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● Ex dividend a Ex alt b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data

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QANTAS The Spirit of Australia.

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-5E 100					
Dec 01	2223.5	2228.0	2219.0	2220.0	27700
Mar 01	2251.0	2253.0	2240.0	2243.0	112
Three Month Sterling					
Dec 01	85.48	85.52	85.43	85.47	11674
Three Month Eurodollar					
Dec 01	81.85	81.90	81.75	81.82	45500
Mar 01	82.46	82.48	82.40	82.43	2258
Three Month Euro DM					
Dec 01	52.45	52.48	52.40	52.44	7767
Mar 01	52.46	52.48	52.40	52.43	2258
Platinum per oz	\$432.25	\$432.25	\$432.25	\$432.25	75
Gold per 100 grams					
Silver per 100 grams					
Time Month ECL					
Dec 01	90.27	90.28	90.21	90.27	77
Mar 01	90.42	90.42	90.35	90.42	77
US\$ Treasury Bond					
Dec 01	94.21	94.12	94.12	94.08	4367
Long DM					
Dec 01	97.12	97.12	97.05	97.07	32108
Mar 01	97.12	97.12	97.05	97.11	29677
US\$ Gov Bond					
Dec 01	97.12	97.12	97.05	97.06	1057
Mar 01	97.12	97.12	97.05	97.06	1057
German Gov Bond					
Dec 01	97.12	97.12	97.05	97.06	1057
Mar 01	97.12	97.12	97.05	97.06	1057

LONDON FOK				LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
1. 1st crude				Official prices/volume previous day			
AMT Futures				(T/tonnes)	Cash	3 months	Vol
COCCA	Dec 699-090	AMT Futures	Dec 815-514	Copper Ode A	1298.0-1299.0	1301.0-1310.0	327500
Mar 748-747	Dec 837-836	Dec 837-836	Dec 837-836	Lead	2440.0-2445.0	2451.0-2460.0	50900
Mar 774-772	AMT Futures	Mar 861-860	Mar 861-860	Zinc Spec Hk	1278.0-1277.0	1284.0-1288.0	118325
AMT Futures	Apr 768-768	Apr 848-848	Apr 848-848	Tin	8620.0-8620.0	8635.0-8640.0	8705
309.25 BBO	Nov 820-820	Nov 820-820	Nov 820-820	Aluminium Hk	1593.0-1594.0	1596.0-1597.0	248475
275.75 BBO	Nov 832-832	Nov 832-832	Nov 832-832	Nickel	7893.0-7894.0	7900.0-7910.0	15584
254.00-81.00	Nov 857-857	Nov 857-857	Nov 857-857	1 (Cents per Troy oz. per lb.)			
245.00-55.00	Nov 871-871	Nov 871-871	Nov 871-871				
243.00-50.00	Dec 887-887	Dec 887-887	Dec 887-887				
8835	Dec 287-02.51	Apr 225-4-24.8	Apr 225-4-24.8				
AMT Futures	Mar 222-6-22.4	Nov 822-6-21.6	Nov 822-6-21.6				
35.20-36.20	Dec 225-12-12.2	Dec 225-12-12.2	Dec 225-12-12.2				
33.10-33.20							
418							
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
WHEAT 1st choice D/2				Futures listed prices at representative			
Jan 116.85	Nov 121.35	Nov 121.35	Nov 121.35	markets on November 28			
Jan 126.20	Nov 135.15	Nov 135.15	Nov 135.15				
Jan 126.20	Nov 135.15	Nov 135.15	Nov 135.15				
Jan 116.85	Nov 120.30	Nov 121.35	Nov 121.35				
Nov 107.50	Nov 111.75						
BAYMEAL							
Nov 107.50	Nov 111.75						
AMT Futures							
Nov 107.50	Nov 111.75						
FODDER							
Nov 107.50	Nov 111.75						

Crime and correct punishment

Is it ever justifiable to give as severe a sentence to a pickpocket as to a rapist? The Court of Appeal evidently thinks so. This is worrying, because the proposals for sentencing reform in the new Criminal Justice Bill seem destined to give the Court of Appeal the task of establishing relativities in sentence lengths among the various types of crime.

The Court of Appeal, presided over by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, has acquired considerable experience of this over the years. Since 1982, the court has had to interpret statutory restrictions on custodial sentences (section 1(4) of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, amended in 1988), which have led it to draw fine distinctions between those burglaries that may be suitable for non-custodial sentences and those that can never be.

The court has also given guidelines on sentencing for crimes such as drug dealing, rape, incest, theft in breach of trust, and so on. Technically admirable as these judgments are, they deal only with a small proportion of crimes.

The main task is to establish relative sentencing levels for the many offences of stealing, swindling, burglary and handling stolen goods. The new legislation declares (with some exceptions) that proportionality should be the guiding principle in sentencing. Some people say that this principle is already established.

In the case of *Freeman* (1989),

LEGAL BRIEF

The judges who constitute the Court of Appeal

are too narrowly-based a body of men to reflect the public's view on the right sentence, when comparing the gravity of rising crime in today's violent society, Andrew Ashworth argues

The defendant pleaded guilty to attempted theft on the Underground. With others, he had been preying on tourists, and was caught trying to open the bag of a Dutch tourist. He was on bail on a similar charge and had previous convictions of a similar nature. The trial judge imposed a sentence of five years' imprisonment, which the Court of Appeal upheld. Previous decisions had upheld sentences of three and four years for pickpocketing on the London Tube.



Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, head of the Court of Appeal

'Is it more necessary to deter pickpocketing than wounding or rape? Does it justify a sentence of a level usually reserved for violent and sexual crimes?'

The offence was a bad one of its kind, and the offender's record was also bad, but was the sentence proportionate to sentences for other crimes, and to the gravity of this type of crime?

The sentence is about twice the norm for attacking a victim with a broken glass in a pub, and is similar to that for rape without aggravating features. The Court of Appeal said the sentence was necessary as a deterrent.

Is it more necessary to deter pickpocketing than wounding or

rape? Is deterrence more likely to work on pickpockets and, if so, how do we know? Even if it is more likely to work, does it justify a sentence of a level usually reserved for violent and sexual crimes?

The pickpocketing case demonstrates that one type of case may look bad on its own but, in a sentencing system based on proportionality, it must be related sensibly to other crimes.

The government appears to think that the Court of Appeal is the right body to examine the relativities among offences. The court's method of working, however, has rarely produced judgments which attempt to place different types of crime in relation to one another, because of a preoccupation with the individual case and type of crime.

If the Court of Appeal is to deliver judgments which take this necessary step towards an overall view of relativities, will they simply be handed down, or will counsel have the opportunity to address argument to the court before they are formulated? In other words, will the Court of Appeal be operating in the tra-

ditional manner of an English court, or more as a policy-making organ?

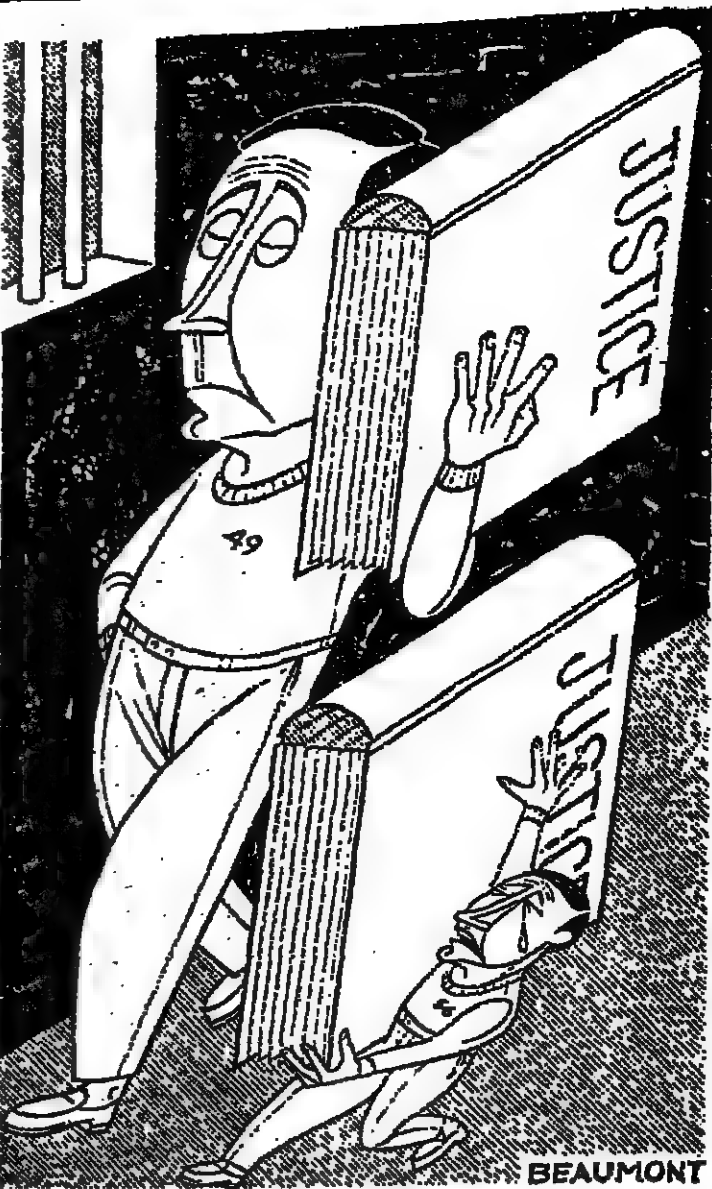
In another recent case, *Conley* (1989), the court stated that "there can never be uniformity in sentencing because no two cases are alike". This is true up to a point, which is why some discretion in sentencing must remain, but it does not remove the need for benchmarks of the relative seriousness of different kinds of offence.

The Court of Appeal recognised this in *Conley* and held that four years' imprisonment was appropriate for a man who had beaten and threatened another with a knife to extort £300. The sentence was lower than that in *Freeman*.

Cases such as these demonstrate that fixing relativities is a difficult and contentious exercise for which there is no simple, practical or academic formula. Yet, it is essential.

Those who favour a sentencing council suggest that these important social judgments should be made by a broader-based body than the senior judiciary, which could stand back from the fray of individual cases. The government prefers the Court of Appeal, but its "experience" is of a somewhat different kind, and it will need to re-examine its procedures if it is to live up to expectations.

The author is Edmund Davies professor of criminal law and justice at King's College, London.



BEAUMONT

Law Report November 27 1990 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Army Board must conduct its hearings with fairness to individual soldiers

Regina v Army Board of the Defence Council, Ex parte Anderson
Before Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Morland
[Judgment November 9]

To comply with the requirements of fairness, the Army Board of the Defence Council, being a forum of last resort, must, in dealing with a complaint of racial discrimination by a serving soldier, conduct a proper hearing of the complaint as a single adjudicating body which met together and considered all relevant evidence and contentions.

While the board was master of its own procedure those procedures must reflect the high degree of fairness required when dealing with issues affecting the rights of an individual serving soldier. All the material considered by the board should be available to a complainant and while it might not be necessary

for hearings conducted by the board to be oral it could not be an inflexible rule that oral hearings would not be held. The board was empowered to grant compensation.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in granting the applicant, Stephen Anderson, judicial review of the decision of the board rejecting his complaint of racial discrimination made while he was a serving soldier.

The applicant was a black soldier who claimed to have been subjected to racial abuse by fellow soldiers between February 1985 and April 1987, when he was absent without leave. After his return nine months later he made a complaint concerning the racial abuse to his commanding officer who in accordance with section 181(3) of the Army Act 1955 called in the Special Investigation Branch of the military

police to prepare a report. Following his court martial the applicant's solicitor sought but was refused a copy of the SIB report. A summary was supplied from which it was clear that some allegations were borne out by statements of other soldiers and that adverse comments, alleging that the applicant sought to exploit the racial issue and had abused others, had been made. The applicant denied those allegations.

On March 10, 1988 a formal complaint was made. On April 25 the applicant was discharged on the ground of ill health. On July 20, 1988 the commanding officer rejected his complaint. His appeals to brigade and district level were also rejected.

The applicant appealed to the Army Board of the Defence Council who rejected the appeal in a decision letter which stated only "Your client's request for redress of grievance has been denied." Thereafter the applicant applied for judicial review.

The powers and duties of the board could be exercised or performed by any two members of a panel of 10, in this case the Quartermaster General and Sir Kenneth Macdonald, second permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

Complaints by civilian employees concerning discrimination were for the most part dealt with by an industrial tribunal but section 75(8) and (9) of the Race Relations Act 1976 provided for those of members of the Army to be dealt with in accordance with section 181 of the Army Act 1955, as amended by section 66(2) of the Armed Forces Act 1966, which provided: "It shall be the duty of a commanding officer or, as the case may be, the Defence Council to have a complaint by him or them under this section investigated

and to take any steps redressing the matter complained of which appear to him or them to be necessary."

Disciplinary action had been taken against two soldiers concerned. The commanding officer in giving his decision on the complaint stated that an oral hearing, as requested, was not available under section 181, that it had been open to the applicant to raise matters considered appropriate at the court martial and that the Ministry of Defence was not liable for compensation. Those determinations had not been disturbed in the subsequent appeals.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Goolbsan Moeran for the applicant; Mr David Pannick for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR said that it would seem from the words of Sir Kenneth Macdonald in an affidavit sworn after the commencement of the

proceedings for judicial review that the approach adopted was not merely that an oral hearing was unnecessary in this case but that they were never required in regard to complaints under section 181 of the 1955 Act.

The applicant's first oral complaint under the Race Relations Act 1976 was primarily relevant to the court martial as mitigation for going absent without leave but the written complaint of March 1988 was not.

It was clearly a free standing complaint under the Race Relations Act which required such a complaint to be dealt with under section 181 of the Army Act for it to be investigated and for any necessary steps for redressing it to be taken.

Sections 1 and 4 of the 1976 Act defined the legal right of an employee not to be subjected to discrimination. For civilians, who usually went through the industrial tribunal, remedies included a declaration of the respective rights of complainant and respondent; the payment of compensation; and the taking of action to "obviate or reduce the adverse effect on the complainant" (section 54(1)).

Mr Sedley submitted that the same remedies must be available to a soldier notwithstanding that the machinery for considering the complaint was different.

But his Lordship said that Parliament had expressly excluded soldiers from access to the industrial tribunal and provided for their complaints to be considered under the less specific and more discretionary provisions of section 181 of the 1955 Act.

Nevertheless it must be a minimum requirement that a complaint considered under that section be declared proven or not and proper consideration of whether redress additional to that declaration be granted.

The board seemed to have regarded the complaint as one requiring disciplinary action against the offender rather than redress for the victim. That suggested that the nature of the complaint under the 1976 Act and the proper issues for the board's consideration were not fully appreciated.

It was necessary for the board to give specific consideration to the relevant provisions and consider whether there had been some form of discrimination within the terms of them.

What were the procedural requirements necessary to achieve fairness? A body required to consider and adjudicate upon an alleged breach of statutory rights and to grant redress when necessary seemed to his Lordship to be exercising an essentially judicial function. It was essential that that body had other functions as well as dealing with an individual's fundamental statutory rights.

(1985) QB 251.

However, to label the board's function either "judicial" or "administrative" to determine what was the appropriate procedural regime was to adopt too inflexible an approach.

The principles were laid down in *Ridge v Baldwin* (1964) AC 413 and were well summarised in *Wade, Administrative Law* (6th edition (1988) p518): "A power which affects rights must be exercised 'judicially' in fairness, and the fact that the power is administrative does not make it any the less 'judicial' for this purpose."

Authoritative guidance as to the criteria by which to decide the requirements of fairness in any given proceeding was given by Lord Bridge of Harwich in *Lloyd v McMahon* (1987) AC 625, 702H-703A.

The character of the decision-making body, the kind of decision it had to take and the statutory or other framework in which it was required to operate were a few of the factors relevant. Where a statute gave it power to make decisions affecting individuals then "the court will not only require the procedure prescribed by the statute to be followed, but will readily imply so much and no more to be introduced by way of additional procedural safeguards as will ensure the attainment of fairness."

Here it was pertinent to note that the board's decision was final, apart from the possibility of judicial review. There was no appeal from its findings.

Mr Sedley had submitted that if the applicant had been seeking entry to the Army and had been discriminated against he would have had the full benefit of the industrial tribunal under section 4(1)(c) and all the procedures claimed there.

Mr Pannick contended that had Parliament wished to impose a more rigid and rigorous procedure still in an army context, it could have made those complaints subject to a board of enquiry (section 135) a regimental enquiry (section 137) or even a court martial — a forum which would have given the complainant the formalities he sought.

There was force in that. Since Parliament had deliberately excluded soldiers' complaints from industrial tribunals, and thus from their procedures, it could not be axiomatic that those must be made available to the board.

However the contention that the duty of fairness required of the board no more than that they acted bona fide, not capriciously or in biased manner, and gave the complainant a chance to respond to basic points put against him was not enough.

As the forum of last resort dealing with an individual's fundamental statutory rights,

the board must by its procedure achieve a high standard of fairness.

His Lordship listed the principles as follows:

1 There must be a proper hearing in that the board must consider the complaint as a single adjudicating body all the relevant evidence and contentions before reaching its conclusions, so the members of the board must meet. It was unsatisfactory for them to reach conclusions in isolation, perhaps, as here, after receiving the concluded views of another member.

2 The hearing need not always be oral. Provided that the degree of fairness appropriate to the task was achieved it was for each body to decide how they should proceed. The necessity for an oral hearing would depend on the subject matter and circumstances of the particular case, on the nature of the decision and on whether there were any substantial issues of fact which could not be resolved on the papers.

His Lordship did not accept that a general rule requiring oral hearings had to be applied by the board to all complaints of discrimination. It would be for the board to decide in its discretion. What it could not do at the other extreme was to have an inflexible policy not to hold oral hearings, as it appeared to be the case.

3 The opportunity to have the evidence tested by cross-examination was again within the board's discretion but usually inseparable from the question of whether to have an oral hearing or not.

4 Oral or not there must be what amounted to a hearing of any complaint under the 1976 Act. Investigation of the complaint, consideration of material gathered, giving the complainant a chance to respond to it and consideration of his response.

Because of the nature of the Army Board's function pursuant to the Race Relations Act 1976 his Lordship considered a soldier's complaint under the Act should be shown all the material seen by the board, apart from any documents for which public interest immunity could properly be claimed.

The board was not simply making an administrative decision requiring it to consult interested parties and hear their representations. It had a duty to adjudicate on a specific complaint of breach of a statutory right.

The errors of law and procedure when viewed in the aggregate were such as required the court to quash their decision.

Mr Justice Morland agreed.

Solicitors: Hodge Jones & Allen, St Pauls, Treasury Solicitor.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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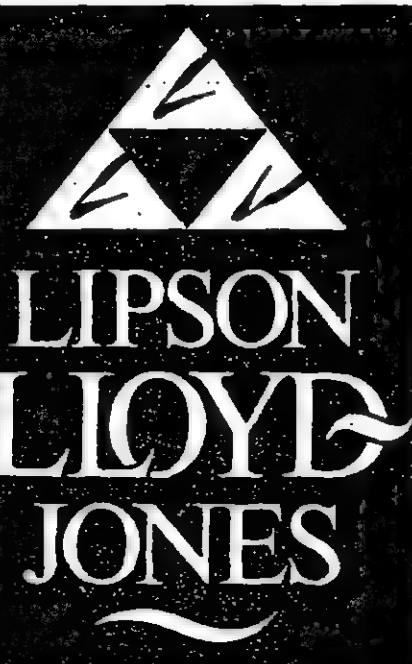
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When driver need not be given notice of intended prosecution

DPP v Pithajacky
Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment October 17]

The exception in *Bentley v Dickinson* (1983) RTR 356 to the rule that no notice of intended prosecution for a motoring offence was necessary should be confined to cases where the incident was so trivial that the driver was unaware of it.

It did not extend to cases where a driver was unaware of the circumstances of the offence owing to the severity of the injuries he received in it.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing the appeal of the prosecution by way of case stated against the finding by Stratford-upon-Avon Justices that the prosecution of the defendant, Mr Paulo Pithajacky, could not proceed because of the lack of a notice of intended prosecution.

The defendant had been involved in an accident and had suffered severe injuries including extensive post-traumatic amnesia so that he had no recollection of the incident. An information was laid alleging the offence of driving without due care and attention was laid but

in accordance with section 179(3A) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as inserted by paragraph 22 of Schedule 6 to the Road Traffic Act 1974, no notice of intended prosecution had been served.

Mr Richard Ray for the appellants; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE WATERHOUSE said that the defendant had not been aware that the accident had

occurred, so slight and unnoticeable had it been, the rationale was clearly that if the driver were given no warning within a reasonable time, he would not have the chance to gather evidence for his case, but a serious accident was a different situation.

The effect of *Bentley v Dickinson* should be restricted to the circumstances in that case. Lord Justice Bingham delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: CPS, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Equitable set-off in counterclaim

Instanform (Ireland) Ltd v Instanform (Ireland) Ltd

It was not enough for the purposes of an equitable set-off that a counterclaim was in some way related to the transaction which gave rise to the claim. That counterclaim had to be so closely connected with the claim that it would be manifestly unjust to allow a party to enforce payment without taking into account the counterclaim.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice

Bingham) so held on November 1 when allowing the appeal of Instanform (Ireland) Ltd against the order of Mr T. W. Lloyd QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, of October 12, 1989 discharging an interlocutory injunction pending trial against the defendants.

Instanform Group Ltd, defendants, claimed that it was owed by Instanform (Ireland) Ltd, claimant, a sum of £100,000 (to come into effect as from October 17, 1990) but granting a stay of execution of that order until November 2, 1990.

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Radical choice for brighter Bar

The Bar has finally won itself a new image. Anthony Scrivener, QC, elected last week as chairman for 1991, is the first leader of the profession in memory to have the popular touch, a legal aid practice and liberal credentials (he defended one of the Guildford Four, and the two peace campaigners who recently tried to stop their criminal prosecution for helping George Blake to escape).

Some of his forerunners have laid claim to one or more of these credentials. However, Scrivener, known as "Scriv", can legitimately claim to be the first who has all three, and succeeds to the chairmanship with a huge following in the Bar's rank and file.

The consensus in the Temple corridors is that his election is good news. "We are already losing out to solicitors over recruitment. We need someone like him to show people what the Bar is really about. The job of chairman in the next year will be 50 per cent public relations," one barrister says.

Mr Scrivener, aged 55, takes over in January next year. He will bring a radically different style to the job. He is approachable, unassuming and did not go to Oxbridge.

He was educated at a direct grant school - Kent College, Canterbury - and then at University College, London, and comes from a family of Kent shopkeepers. He boasts that, contrary to public impression, he is typical of most of the Bar. "On the whole, I represent what barristers are like. We are not an elitist profession, or all the sons of lords and ladies."

The break with tradition, however, does not extend to his Bar

Barristers have voted for a new, populist leader, writes

Frances Gibb, legal affairs correspondent

policy. Mr Scrivener is a passionate defender of the Bar and of the principle that its advocates should be available to all. He must fight the Bar's corner in the crucial year when the government's legal reforms are being hammered out. He is determined to continue the dogged opposition of Peter Cresswell, QC, the current chairman, to moves that will allow solicitors advocacy rights in the higher courts.

Solicitor-advocates, he says, must be subject, like barristers, to the cab-rank rule and take legal aid cases along with the rest. "The privileges of advocacy go hand in hand with its burdens. You can't have two groups of advocates, one only doing the well-paid cases and the others the publicly funded work."

Mr Scrivener is one of the high-earning QCs at the common law Bar. Rumour has it that he landed the first £1 million brief when he defended Price Waterhouse, the accountants, in the big Hong Kong fraud case a few years ago. But he is unusual in that legal aid work is a large part of his practice.

This is an example, he boasts, of the cab-rank rule in operation. He denies that the example is a rare one; nor will he admit that for many QCs the cab-rank rule is more theoretical than real, and

that, effectively, they choose their cases through the device of simply "not being available".

Mr Scrivener warns that there is a danger of getting a "United States-style system, with well-off lawyers only doing well-paid cases, and the young and inexperienced, doing murders and publicly funded work. I can think of nothing more undesirable."

He has already made his mark with his views on the judiciary, coming out strongly for reform. He rejects the view of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, that there is a shortage of suitable women at the Bar for judicial appointment, and wants a better system for identifying and selecting candidates.

He also favours solicitors being eligible for the higher judicial appointments. "I don't think a good advocate necessarily becomes a good judge," he says.

A self-confessed workaholic, he has little time for life outside the Bar. He and his wife have two grown-up children, a flat in central London and a house in Pinner, north London. He supports Arsenal, and occasionally plays cricket for chambers, when he has the time, but the Bar is his life.

Yet, as one of the Bar's staunchest defenders, he says it needs to improve its image. This does not mean putting aside wigs or gowns. "It is important to break down the secrecy and mystique that has grown up over the years. We must be approachable, to let people talk to us, and not speak with plums in our mouths."



Anthony Scrivener, "I represent what barristers are like. We are not an elitist profession"

INNS AND OUTS

Guilty, but still free

THE fledgling democracies of central and eastern Europe are caught on the horns of a dilemma. Should they prosecute the deposed communists for crimes against the state and the people, or would that make the new governments morally guilty as the regimes they have replaced?

Conor Gearty, a civil rights lawyer, has been to Czechoslovakia to interview politicians and victims of communist rule to discover why, since the "velvet" revolution, the new government has prosecuted only one senior communist, the former head of the secret police.

The Czech police are well aware of the public's disquiet on the matter. When it comes to their former leaders, Mr Gearty says, "nothing is too bad to be believed". However, in a society that was riddled with corruption, most people were compromised and feel some guilt.

The Communist party has not been declared an illegal organisation, the same judges are sitting in court, despite the belief that they are corrupt, and the government refuses to prosecute except where there is evidence of a crime under the criminal code. Any evidence, however, has, in the most part, disappeared.

The difficulty, Mr Gearty believes, is that the pursuit of democracy and the rule of law has meant a failure to underline the crimes against the people committed by the old regime, which may in turn lead to the eventual destruction of the new democracies. Mr Gearty's findings will be broadcast on Radio 3, tomorrow at 8.55pm, in the report *What Should be Done About the Guilty?*

New law group

WOMEN who read law at Somerville College, Oxford or who now practise law, have been invited to join a Somerville Law Group, which aims to operate as a network for Somerville lawyers and as a potential source of funds for Somerville's badly underfunded law department.

The group's aims were originally outlined at a meeting held at the college in June,

where Lady Bingham described, among other things, the parlous state of the college law library and the severe pressure under which the college's two law tutors are working.

Harriet Dawes, partner at Lovell White Durrant and chair of the group's committee, says that obtaining funding for a further teaching post will be one of the ultimate aims of the group, but in the meantime it will pursue more limited funding objectives, such as the improvement of the law library and the teaching of specific subjects such as European law.

The group will also establish links between those studying law at Somerville and those in practice and will operate as a forum for women who have left a practice and wish to return or those who have taken career breaks. About 200 ex-Somervillians hope to attend the next meeting, in the Middle Temple in January. Details from Meena Bhargava at Slaughter and May.

Czeching it out

WHILE the future for Czechoslovakia may look troubled, the flow of foreign investment continues. Where there is business, the lawyers are never far behind, and S. J. Berwin, the London firm, is the first off the mark. The firm is about to open an office in Prague in conjunction with a Czech lawyer, Dr Bohuslav Klein. Until recently, Dr Klein was a member of the Czech chamber of commerce, where he was instrumental in drafting many of the laws aimed at encouraging foreign investment.

Taxing loyalty

TO LOSE one magistrate might be called a misfortune; to lose two seems like carelessness. Two magistrates have resigned rather than enforce the poll tax in Eastbourne, the scene of the Conservative by-election defeat last month. Last Wednesday, Mrs Joan Tucker abruptly left the bench half way through the day's list of poll tax default cases. One witness reported that she was in tears. She handed in her notice the same day. A former colleague, Ronald Hutchinson, handed in his notice last January because he opposed the tax.

SCRIVENER

Secret words could win £6,000

Edward Fennell discusses the right to know as the final entry date for The Times Law Awards draws near



ness for the legal system. According to some commentators, more public information will lead to less litigation because often only litigation forces the disclosure of important information.

However, the United States is a more litigious society, even though it might be said that the "right to know" is much better established there than in Britain. Are our lawyers custodians of secrecy or the champions of knowledge?

The entries will be judged by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, in conjunction with Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times*, and Clive Boxer, the senior partner of Fishburn Boxer.

The winning entry will be

announced at a dinner for the shortlisted candidates, to be held at the Savoy, London, on January 24. The presentation will be made by Lord Mackay.

The first prize is £3,000, the second prize, £2,000, and the third prize, £1,000. If you have any queries about the competition, telephone 0898 200551.

Rules:
1. The competition is open to all readers of *The Times* (except employees of Fishburn Boxer, *Times Newspapers* and *News International* and their families) who are aged between 17 and 24 on Friday, November 30, 1990. *The Times* reserves an express licence to publish, at any time, all or any part of the essay.
2. The essay must be the sole creation and original work of

the entrant. Essays will not be eligible if they copy, or borrow, ideas from other copyright works. *The Times* reserves the right to delete or omit from any published essay anything that in the absolute discretion of the editor should not be published on editorial or legal grounds.

3. All entries will be acknowledged but will not be returned.
4. Entries must be no more than 700 words, typed in double spacing. The top sheet should carry the entrant's name, address, age and date of birth, and home and daytime telephone numbers. If you are a student, please include your subject(s) of study and institution. If you are training, please name your employer.

5. Entries must be received by *The Times* Law Awards, Epigram Associates, New Easling House, 28-30 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HN, by November 30, 1990.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

LEGAL ADVISER

Offshore contracting industry

*London based
Excellent salary
and benefits*

Our client is a successful contractor to the offshore oil and gas industry whose activities cover design, project management, fabrication and installation engineering. The Company is at the forefront of Offshore Engineering worldwide.

Our client now wishes to strengthen their international department and has an excellent opportunity for a qualified Lawyer with 5+ years of commercial experience to work in London.

The successful applicant will be responsible for providing a full range of legal services to London Office management including the review of tender documents and proposals, drafting contracts, negotiations of contracts with Clients and Sub-Contractors, monitoring contract compliance, reviewing claims involving the Company and liaison with outside counsel on litigation matters. Some international travel will be a feature of the position.

If you are self-motivated with the ability to react quickly and professionally to challenging situations and some of your experience has been associated with either the petrochemical or offshore industries, then we are very interested in hearing from you. This is a senior level appointment and career opportunities within the Corporation are excellent. The salary and benefits package will be all that you would expect from a large international Company.

Please write with full career details quoting reference 5382 to Hazel O'Brien, Stafford Long & Partners Recruitment Limited, Kirkman House, 12/14 Whitfield Street, London W1P 5RD.



STAFFORD LONG & PARTNERS

HEAD OF CHAMBERS

Our Client is a successful and expanding set of 20 members in one of the Inns of Court.

The chambers undertake a range of civil work with particular emphasis on property litigation and general commercial contract. There are also specialists in family and criminal law.

A new Head of Chambers is now sought.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Alistair Dougall on 071-405 6062 (081-773 3702 evenings/weekends), or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL

In today's uncertain market, you might be forgiven for assuming that, whatever your doubts about your present firm, you would be best advised to "stay put". It would be a shame, however, if that meant missing the opportunity to discuss your future career with us.

We are, perhaps, unusual. As a young, but established ten partner Holborn firm, we are expanding - we need a bright and ambitious two-three year corporate/commercial lawyer with heavyweight experience to be part of our continued success.

If you would like to find out more about us, please contact our consultant, Dominique Graham at
Graham Gill & Young,
44-46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN
Telephone 071-430 1711

GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A Success Story

INDUSTRY

COMMERCIAL S W Midlands
First class opportunity for 2-4yr comm lawyer to join dept. handling broad range of work including joint ventures, acquisitions and investments. Demand-ing environment. Overseas travel.

COMMERCIAL

Hampshire to £40,000
Leading practice requires solicitor with at least 2 yrs corporate/commercial exp'te to join expanding department handling high quality work.

LITIGATION

London to £45,000
Sol, 1-4yrs, required by well-established firm, to handle a variety of comm lit ranging from defamation/libel to building & property-related work. Prospects.

LITIGATION

Hampshire c £30,000
Solicitor with 3yrs+ exp'te to join established team in senior position to handle heavy workload of mainly insolvency and High Court litigation.

Contact Fiona Young on 071-430 1711 (or 081-692 5680 evenings and weekends) or write to her at Graham Gill & Young 44-46 Kingsway, London WC2

GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 4481

CONSTRUCTION LAWYERS

Ashurst Morris Crisp was recently singled out by the Legal 500 as the firm most likely to go from strength to strength. Having moved to new offices in Broadgate the firm has also recently opened in Brussels, Paris and Tokyo.

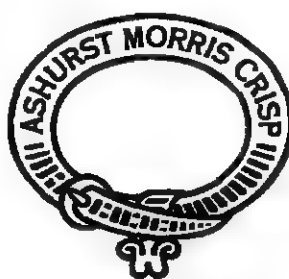
The firm is enjoying significant growth in its construction law practice and now seeks further lawyers with at least 3 years' post-qualification expertise in non-contentious construction law.

The work will include all aspects of non-contentious construction work including building contracts, professional appointments and warranties for all forms of construction projects for a diverse range of clients including major developers, contractors, project managers and professional consultants.

The firm pays top City rates and the future prospects offered will be hard to match.

Applications should be made in writing, together with a curriculum vitae to:-

Hugh Kelly
Ashurst Morris Crisp
Broadwalk House
5 Appold Street
London EC2A 2HA
Tel: 071-638 1111



ASHURST
MORRIS
CRISP

LONDON • BRUSSELS • PARIS • TOKYO

TRUSTS CARIBBEAN

Our client is a thriving financial-services group - with 29 offices in 9 countries - comprising trust companies, banks and insurance brokers. It offers professional and specialised services to corporate, institutional and private investors operating internationally.

An opportunity now exists for a lawyer, probably aged 25-35, to further the development of the Trust Department in the Group's rapidly-expanding financial-services organisation in the British Virgin Islands. The post is based in the Islands.

Candidates should have a background in drafting and administering trusts, and related experience of corporate administration would be helpful: the work will range from trust matters and the incorporation and maintenance of offshore companies to trademark and yacht registration.

This position carries a generous salary and benefits, with a non-contributory pension scheme, medical insurance and relocation expenses, together with excellent career prospects in the Group as a whole.

For further information please telephone Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M., on 071-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Ltd., Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

EXPATRIATE
PACKAGE

EXCELLENT
PROSPECTS

REUTER
SIMKIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

Ring the changes in Local Government
London

c. £40,000

Since the abolition of the GLC and ILGA, our client, a busy London borough, has become responsible for virtually all the local government services within its area. The introduction of competition into some areas of the Council's responsibility and increased emphasis on customer care has meant that the authority has had to implement some fundamental changes, particularly in the Legal department. The old post of Borough Solicitor has now been abolished, and the position of Chief Solicitor created. The Chief Solicitor will, in effect, be the solicitor to the Council and as such will be in charge of representing the Council on all legal matters, including attendance at court where necessary.

Reporting to the Head of Legal Services, the Chief Solicitor will be responsible for a secretary, five principal lawyers and a newly appointed Business Manager. This latter appointment has been created to leave the Chief Solicitor free to

develop a responsive and efficient legal service to the Council, its committees and officers.

Applications are, therefore, invited from "seasoned" practitioners with proven management skills, who can demonstrate substantial work experience in at least two of the following areas: property, planning, housing, education, employment, compulsory competitive tendering, social services and general litigation. Successful candidates are likely to come from a Local Government background, although applications from private practitioners are positively encouraged.

Because this position is a new one, it should present itself as an attractive and challenging opportunity for career minded individuals. Interested candidates should send their CV, including current remuneration details, day and home telephone numbers, quoting reference C0958/T to Annal Fenton at the address below. Applications must be received by December 3rd 1990.

OUR CLIENT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



Peat Marwick Selection & Search
70 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1EU

NON-CONTENTIOUS CONSTRUCTION

c. £38,000
Leading City firm seeks an experienced Construction lawyer with approx. 3 years' post qualification experience to join its expanding construction team. The successful candidate will be self-motivated and intellectually alert with an excellent background in private practice or industry. The role includes giving advice and negotiating for large prestigious corporate bodies, drafting contracts (tailor-made, design & build, standard, etc.), collateral warranties and project financing.

INSOLVENCY

Home Counties c. £30,000
Medium-sized firm with substantial corporate client base urgently requires insolvency specialist to join busy commercial department. The work is challenging and broad, advising Liquidators and Receivers, negotiating with creditors, advising on directorship liabilities and dealing with accountancy practices. The individual sought should have qualified at least 5 years ago, having related experience in a good commercial firm.

PRIVATE CLIENT

c. £35,000
The probate division of this established and prosperous private client practice needs a 3-4 year qualified solicitor experienced in probate law and able to deal with overseas aspects. The firm acts for wealthy private individuals, large estates, substantial institutions and charities.

Reliance Legal • Target for Success

53 Doughty Street
London WC1N 2LS
Tel: (071) 405 4985
Fax: (071) 242 0208

Amanda Prince - Permanent
Sarah Jordan - Locum
Amanda Boyd - Paralegal
Clare Tattersall - Manager

CHAMBERS OF
MR RODGER BELL QC

1 CROWN OFFICE ROW TEMPLE
BRIGHTON ANNEXE.
Applications are invited for the position of CLERK to the above ANNEXE which is in the process of expanding and moving to larger premises.
Remuneration according to age and experience.
Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be addressed to:
The Senior Clerk, Mr Alan G Smith
1 Crown Office Row, Temple
LONDON EC4Y 7HH

A PARTICULAR KIND OF BANKING LAWYER

Nabarro Nathanson is one of the largest, most entrepreneurial law firms in the UK.

Our Banking Department is overwhelmed with work and requires two more solicitors:

- with 2 - 3 years' experience of banking, preferably including experience of capital markets, asset and project finance
- whose experience has been gained within a major firm or in-house with a bank
- who wish to progress quickly and obtain job satisfaction within a growing department
- who can work effectively either alone or as part of a team

- who have both a commercial approach and a high level of legal skills and knowledge.

We offer:

- an enlightened approach to remuneration and career progression
- the support of an integrated commercial firm with 96 partners and over 800 staff
- an opportunity to enhance marketing and presentational skills by participation in conferences, seminars and workshops, both in-house and with clients
- a pleasant and modern work environment in an interesting location

- an expanding network of international associations with the possibility of working for a period in an overseas office

- liaison with our Northern Office which itself has a staff of over 120. Telephone or write to: Pat Haynes, Head of Legal Personnel.



NABARRO NATHANSON
50 Stratton Street, London W1X 5FL
Telephone: 071-493 9933

A Particular Kind of Law Firm
Registered in the conduct of investment business by the Law Society

Career Advice Without Compromise

Lipson Lloyd-Jones is firmly established at the forefront of legal recruitment in London and nationwide. All of our Consultants are qualified Lawyers each of whom has practised either within private practice or industry and in some cases, both. Our interviews with candidates are detailed and informative and are followed by a dedicated search and research programme designed to ensure that every possible avenue of approach is thoroughly investigated. Our advice to candidates is objective, providing a balanced view of the profession generally, and more particularly, the current recruitment market. We also offer an in-depth analysis

of the merits of working within private practice and industry, calling upon the first hand experience of our Consultants. Naturally, CV's are only forwarded to clients at our candidates' direction and applications are not made to clients on a speculative basis. If you would like to discuss the opportunities set out below or the many other positions registered with us, contact Simon Lipson, Michael Silver or Jane Mearns, all Solicitors, or Lucy Boyd, a Barrister.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL City/Holborn to £50,000
► M&A ► Yellow Book/Blue Book ► Venture Capital ► 2-5PQE

LITIGATION City/Holborn/West End £Excellent
► Major practice ► Construction, insurance, insolvency, shipping & banking
► 0-5PQE

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE City £Outstanding
► Capital Markets ► Banking ► Project finance ► Excellent prospects

INDUSTRY

SECURITIES City c. £40,000 + Excellent benefits
► Senior Lawyer ► Eurobonds experience ► OTC options ► Unit trusts ► SWAPS

CLEARING BANK City c. £30,000 + Benefits
► Solicitor/Barrister ► City background ► Company/commercial ► EEC
► Contracts ► 2-3PQE

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY West London £25-32,000 + Car
► Barrister/Solicitor ► In-house experience ► Company/commercial ► Licensing
► Contracts ► 2-5PQE

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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CAMERON MARKBY HEWITT

INSOLVENCY

LONDON AND BRISTOL

Our client, Cameron Markby Hewitt, is acknowledged to be one of the leading players in corporate rescue/insolvency. As such, it continues to receive a substantial share of high-profile instructions in this very competitive field from major accountants, lenders and corporations. Many of these cases make headline news.

The firm is justifiably proud of its success and has ambitious, yet realistic, expansion plans, which include the recruitment of several additional insolvency lawyers over the next few years. It currently has the following requirements in both its London and its Bristol offices for high-calibre, non-contentious corporate rescue/insolvency lawyers.

LONDON

Two solicitors, ideally with around 2-4 years' post-qualification experience, although if you have slightly less experience but a proven track record, you should not be deterred from applying.

BRISTOL

A solicitor with around 3-6 years' post-qualification experience to join a young and energetic team. As well as having technical competence, you will relish the opportunity to play a significant role in the development of the firm's insolvency practice in Bristol. Full support will be given by the London insolvency team.

You are currently working either in a major provincial practice or in London, and are potentially attracted by the intellectual and financial rewards that are unlikely to be bettered elsewhere. If you need to relocate to the London or Bristol area, the firm will help with expenses.

Reuter Simkin has offices in London, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and Guildford, and we hope you will be able to attend a preliminary interview at whichever Reuter Simkin location is most convenient. For further information please telephone David Jermyn LL.B. (who is co-ordinating the recruitment) on 071-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Ltd., Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

EXCELLENT PACKAGE

PROSPECTS

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MANCHESTER • LEEDS • BRISTOL
GUILDFORD • DORSET

MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS LAW

£Highly Competitive

One of the City's leading international commercial practices, our Client has already established a team dedicated to servicing the commercial requirements of its major satellite, television, radio and other communications clients, as well as financiers in this field.

The work is undoubtedly challenging. In addition to mainstream commercial contracts, joint ventures and licenses, it includes franchising, intellectual property and completely new issues arising in communications law.

The successful candidate will have up to two years' commercial/IP experience, including at least twelve months' copyright, preferably in TV or the Film Industry. The salary package will be highly competitive. The role offers a chance to gain unparalleled experience in an important new legal field.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Macrae on 071-405 6062 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.

QD
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SHIPPING OPPORTUNITY
TO £45,000

Our Client is a leading international City practice committed to dramatically increasing the profile of its Shipping Department.

The quality of work is excellent, including the full range of international shipping and commodities disputes. The youth and approachability of the partners ensures that the working environment is highly efficient yet informal.

Two young solicitors are sought, ideally up to three years qualified. Some experience in the field is a pre-requisite. Great emphasis will also be placed on personality and commitment to helping build and participate in the success of the Department.

To ensure that it attracts and retains first-class lawyers, the firm pays premium City rates and places great emphasis on career development for its fee earners en route to partnership.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Macrae (a qualified solicitor) on 071-405 6062 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.

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COMMERCIAL LAWYER
WITH COMMERCIAL VISION

To play a "managing partner" role within a major group

c.£42,500, car + exceptional benefits

Midlands

Within this major UK Group (turnover more than £3 billion), the corporate legal activity is a fully integrated service to management. Although concise legal advice and precise technical drafting is naturally required, its work is set against the background of a business-oriented advisory service. Nine qualified professionals handle the entire spectrum from franchising, trademarks and consumer protection, through employment, acquisitions and disposals, to conveyancing. The increasing involvement of the Group Legal Adviser at Board level, and subsequent workload, means that he now needs another senior commercial lawyer to share his load, developing an almost personal client list within the company while keeping an eye on the operation of the department as a whole. It's a genuinely managerial position, but despite the industrial context, the style of the operation is reminiscent of a progressive commercial practice. Ideal candidates will have the breadth of commercial experience, sharpness of intellect and inter-personal skill to have earned this *primus inter pares* role by right rather than by decree. Almost inevitably the past five to eight years will have been spent with a major industrial/commercial group (although the right personality from the right commercial practice is also a possibility); a Law degree and legal qualification we take for granted; the Group's European aims will demand a knowledge of EEC law - and will stimulate the right candidate. Please send full career details, quoting reference WE 0186, to Terry Ward, Ward Executive Limited, Academy House, 26-28 Sackville Street, London W1X 2QL. Tel: 071-439 4581.

WARD EXECUTIVE

LIMITED
Executive Search & Selection

London

▷ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, EC2 £50,000+
5 years' PQE+

Highly regarded, 20 partner, Commercial firm now seeks a heavyweight Solicitor for its flourishing, broad-based Prop. Dept. You will have, ideally, a commercial following or contacts; however, the firm's present aim is to develop existing clients. Immediate partnership prospects.

▷ COMMERCIAL LITIGATION, W1 to £45,000
1-4 years' PQE

Outstanding opportunity to join this leading firm (clients include sovereign states, international organisations, etc.), to take on a general litigation caseload of the highest quality. Intelligence (min 2:1) and enthusiasm are vital, while salary levels and prospects reflect the importance of this position.

N.Surrey/N.Sussex

▷ CIVIL LITIGATION to £28,000
Excellent opportunity exists in a medium sized, N. Surrey firm for a young and dynamic solicitor with partnership potential, wishing to take on a mixed and interesting caseload of civil litigation, including Personal Injury, Landlord/Tenant and some Matrimonial.

▷ COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING to £27,000
1-2 years qualified solicitor is needed by this flourishing and easily accessible firm in N. Sussex to handle their increasing property caseload. Ideally you will have a City/West End background and have had good general commercial property experience including development and leasehold work.

For further information, please contact Simon Janion or Simon Eagan on 071 242 6321 (fax: 071 831 7121) or send your CV to 75 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8US.

PERSONNEL RESOURCES

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FIRM

Expanding EC1 law firm with offices worldwide, seeks self-supporting Solicitor (min. 3 years' experience) with strong following, looking for new challenges, to either join or create association.

International client base. Tel. 071-935-5541.

SMALL FIRM/REPUTABLE

Small firm/Reputable Solicitor (min. 3 years' experience) with strong following, looking for new challenges, to either join or create association.

International client base. Tel. 071-935-5541.

Small firm/Reputable Solicitor (min. 3 years' experience) with strong following, looking for new challenges, to either join or create association.

International client base. Tel. 071-935-5541.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

SENIOR SOLICITOR

Up to £15,395 p.a.
Plus approximately £2,000 p.a. towards house or salary currently under review.

We seek a 2 year qualified solicitor able to deal with a wide variety of matters, but with a conveyancing bias.

The postholder will be involved in major development projects and will find the post a positive career move.

The legal section at Burnley operates on commercial lines with computerised time recording and re-charging to client departments. Local government experience is not essential.

Financial benefits include a generous relocation allowance, paid continuing education, and paid professional fees. Other benefits include flexible working hours, temporary housing accommodation, the possibility of job-share, and working as part of a small, friendly team.

If you wish to discuss the post please telephone: 0282-25011 and ask for Susan Walsh, the Chief Legal Officer.

Application forms and further details are obtainable from the Chief Executive Officer & Town Clerk's Department, Town Hall, Burnley (Tel: 0282 25011 Extension 2165) to whom they should be returned by 14th December 1990.

BURNLEY

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FOR BUSY WEST LONDON OFFICE

EXCELLENT SALARY.

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SENIOR COMMERCIAL
LAWYER

Hertfordshire

Competitive Package

Only four and a half years after formation, Iveco Ford Truck Limited is now the UK market leader for commercial vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. Established as a joint venture between Iveco (the commercial motor vehicle subsidiary of Fiat) and Ford Motor Company, activities outside the UK are now becoming increasingly significant. As a result, Iveco Ford wishes to appoint a Senior Commercial Lawyer to be responsible for managing the legal and regulatory offices of the four Scandinavian companies comprising Iveco North Europe.

The successful applicant will need to possess strong negotiating skills and will be required to draft a wide range of commercial contracts and agreements associated with each of the four companies' business interests. In addition, they will need to advise management on the implications of local, UK and EEC law in relation to future corporate proposals.

An ideal applicant would be an English qualified lawyer with experience in Scandinavian countries, or a Danish or Swedish qualified lawyer, fluent in English, with a minimum of five years' post-qualification experience. You will need to be committed, energetic and have a ready grasp of commercial and economic issues.

Initially based in Watford, with considerable overseas travel involved, it is likely the incumbent will be relocated to Copenhagen after a period of 12 months.

To apply, please forward your curriculum vitae to: Danny Kavanagh, Personnel Department, Iveco Ford Truck Limited, Iveco Ford House, Station Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 1SR.

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CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

LONDON: 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET MANCHESTER: 53 Princess Street, Manchester M2 4EO

The Smaller Firm

Our candidates seem to have two views on the smaller firm. Some are reluctant to consider any firm with fewer than 20 partners, and recoil at the idea of joining a firm of 5 partners or less. They each have their various reasons: financial insecurity among smaller firms, lower salaries, the risk of mergers, and a vague intuition that the days of the small firm are over.

Others are reluctant to consider the larger firms. They see them, rightly or wrongly, as impersonal 'factories', each solicitor being compartmentalised within an ever more limited specialism. They are attracted to the idea of the small firm where they can have full control over their own transactions, a broad range of work, and the likelihood of an early partnership. They often prefer the small specialist firm with a niche in intellectual property, for instance, or in construction, commercial litigation, or entertainment. Such a firm, they hope, combines the autonomy and variety of the small firm with the larger firm's quality of work. They retain the prospect of representing their clients singlehandedly in high-powered negotiations with a partner and four assistants from Freshfields.

The question of joining a smaller firm has come to the fore as a result of the current squeeze within the larger firms, many of which are now actually laying people off. A growing number of candidates are seeking advice on prospects outside the megafirms and on the kind of small firm that might suit them.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING

EUROPEAN LAWYER: SOUTH EAST

£245,000 + car
Lawyer, qualified on Continent, ideally with hi-tech experience, to join legal department of international group.

FINANCE LAWYER: CITY

£240,000 package
Lawyer familiar with IMRO and TSA rules to join the legal and compliance team of international fund management group.

OWN CLIENT FOLLOWING...

No-one can say precisely what their following will be, but we have many positions for those with at least some following.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Solicitor Wanted: City
Top firm seeks senior shipping litigation with maritime expertise to head up admiralty department.

Commercial Lawyer with Following
Medium-sized firm with prestigious modern offices. Opening for successful comm. lawyer.

Insolvency: Birmingham
Leading firm seeks 2-3 yr qual solr to handle high-quality non-contentious work. £Excellent.

Non-Contentious Insolvency: Holborn
Early partnership. Insolvency lawyer to set up dept. No following required: firm already busy.

Commercial Litigation: Holborn
NQ-3 yrs. Good qual lit. Opp to develop non-contentious expertise. Excellent prospects.

Commercial Property: Avon
NQ solicitor sought by leading firm to join flourishing commercial property department.

Company/Commercial: Bucks
At least 3 yrs' exp and business/finance background to strengthen co/comm team. £31,000.

OIL: LONDON

Excellent salary package
Leading oil and gas exploration company seeks 3 year qualified lawyer to handle both oil and general commercial work.

FINANCE: CITY

To £28,000 + benefits
Young lawyer to join newly-created legal and technical unit based in the City. Knowledge of the FSA would be an advantage.

INSURANCE: CITY

£225,000 pa.
Recently qualified solicitor or barrister to join small legal team working closely with loss adjusters, bankers and financial advisers.

Civil Litigation: Macclesfield

Thriving med-sized firm seeks solr 2-5 yrs qual five years injury & gen civ lit. £17-24,000 pa.

Commercial Property: Holborn
Pship prospects for solr with good academic background. Well-known firm. Varied work.

Head of Litigation: M.W. London
Senior solr with broad lit exp reqd to head up busy department. Very attractive salary.

Japanese-Speaking Lawyer
Medium-sized City firm seeks co/comm lawyer with knowledge of Japanese.

Litigation: Surrey/Hants
Various positions for litigators NQ-10 yrs qual with well-respected firms. £16-30,000.

Corporate Tax: City
NQ-2 yr qual lawyer to join leading med-sized const practice. Wide range of transactions.

International Banking: City
Leading banking firm with flourishing practice seeks 1-3 yr qual solr. Excellent expce offered.

London: 071-606 9371 (Fax: 071-600 1793) Manchester: 061-228 2122 (Fax: 061-228 2213)

Commercial Lawyer

Our clients are a world-renowned engineering and manufacturing group with substantial international sales and an annual turnover exceeding £400 million.

Reporting to the Head of Group Legal Services, you will join their high-calibre legal department in the West Country advising senior management on European and worldwide programmes. Among matters handled will be a broad range of UK and international commercial work including acquisitions and disposals, joint ventures, competition law, intellectual property, international trade law,

and the negotiation and settlement of disputes. There could be some foreign travel.

Candidates should have at least three years' commercial experience in a law firm or a company legal department. They will be either barristers with previous experience in industry or solicitors. Good communication skills are essential, together with professional confidence and decision-making ability.

In addition to a competitive salary there will be a company car, BUPA, and other benefits.

Please send your c.v. to Sonya Rayner, or telephone her for further information.

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Commercial West End practice seeks 2 soliticians with 1-4 years PQE and 3-4 years PQE to handle broad spread of commercial litigation work. Good City background important.

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Leading City firm seeks solicitor c2 years PQE to handle 80% shipping and 20% reinsurance work. Applications invited from P+1 club/private practice. Overseas travel and sense of humour important part of job.

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Leading City firm seeks solicitor 6 mths - 2 yrs PQE/3-4 yrs PQE to handle broad spread of corporate taxation work, relating to all aspects of international activities. City experience preferred.

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For further information please call or write to:
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Medium sized City firm requires a recently qualified solicitor to handle contracts and acquisitions of public/private companies and general commercial work. £21 degree preferred.

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Evening Tel. No: (081) 646 4955

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COMMERCIAL LAWYER

West London

Taylor Woodrow is one of the country's largest construction companies with wide-ranging interests in UK and overseas activities including construction, civil engineering, project management, multi-discipline engineering, consultancy, drilling and mining.

Our Legal and Company Secretarial Department seeks an additional newly-qualified graduate Solicitor or Barrister to join a busy Department where the work is varied and demanding with emphasis on drafting, negotiating and advising on contracts and commercial agreements. (Applicants will have to demonstrate a sound understanding of the laws of contract and tort.)

This position carries a competitive salary and a range of benefits expected from a large organisation, including a company car.

Please send a detailed cv, in strict confidence, to Peter Davies, Company Secretary/Director, Department D10C, Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd, Taywood House, 345 Ruislip Road, Southall, Middlesex UB8 2QX.

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Applications are invited for this key post in the administration of one of Britain's largest Polytechnics. This new post arises from a reorganisation of the administration of the Polytechnic to meet the challenges of expansion and change in the 1990s.

The successful candidate will be responsible to the Pro-Rector, for the management of the central academic administration and the effective operation of the work of the Court of Governors and the Academic Council. Candidates should be able to demonstrate qualities of effective administration, initiative and team leadership. Experience of higher education administration whilst preferable is not essential.

Salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities of this senior post and will be not less than £20,000 per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Personnel Department, PCL, 308 Regent Street, London W1R 8AL, or telephone 071-517 5000 ext 2096 (Answerphone), quoting Ref 201063. The closing date for the receipt of completed applications forms is 7 December 1990.

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Planning Adviser

Circa £21,500 p.a. plus Performance Related Pay

The Northern Regional Health Authority has recently undergone a major review of its services and as a consequence, the Programme Development Division has been created to drive forward major programmes of change.

You would contribute to the development of programmes of health care within the Region, ensuring an effective analysis and assessment system to generate and appraise key developments.

You will be involved with all Districts and Units across the Region as a whole and, with the Senior Service Manager, will work on, and where appropriate lead, projects in all health care areas including services for people with learning difficulties, mental health, acute and primary care.

This will involve co-ordination of Regional, District and unit initiatives using such techniques as service reviews, option appraisal and approvals in principle to aid decisions on investment.

You will possess a broad understanding of the dynamics of health care development and the personality to cope with pressure uncertainty and the demand for innovation. In addition, you should preferably be able to demonstrate a number of years work experience within the health services. Experience of the application of structural analysis to difficult management issues is essential.

If you feel you can meet the challenges of this post and wish to discuss it on an informal basis, telephone Elaine Rodger, Director, Programme Development on (091) 2246222 or telephone the Human Resources Division for an information pack and job description on (091) 2761505 (24 hour answering service), returning completed application forms to Human Resources Division, Northern Regional Health Authority, Beaufield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 4PY. Ref No 32599. Closing date 7.12.90. Interviews to be held 14.12.90.



Northern Regional Health Authority
Beaufield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 4PY. Telephone (091) 224 6222

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071-48

Health visitors are the first line of defence in keeping the community well, Joan Llewelyn Owens says

Visiting good health on all

Many people think that health visitors work with mothers and babies only, but their task is to promote good health and to prevent ill-health in the whole community, Julie Simpkins, a London health visitor, says. "One of the great things about health visiting is that we offer a service to everybody. We often have better access than social workers, for there is no stigma in having a health visitor call on you. I find my client group an enormous pleasure to work with. They are very responsive and interested in what we do."

Health visits start with pregnancy. Visitors teach women about the right sort of preparation for childbirth and advice on a healthy lifestyle before conception.

When a new baby is 11 to 14 days old, health visitors usually take over from the community midwife and call on the mother, to have a friendly chat and discuss the baby's progress. Advice and help are given when there are problems.

Health visitors also call regularly on families with children up to five years old, to make sure that all is well, and that they are developing normally. At the appropriate time, they provide information about development checks and immunisations. Some have a caseload of elderly people.

In the home, health visitors, who are nearly always women, inevitably come into contact with adolescents and adults, and may find themselves advising on a variety of matters, from the treatment of acne to the menopause and problems of old age. Many health visitors are also involved in a health promotion group, such as one for people who wish to stop smoking.

After being notified of discharges from hospital or having referrals from GPs, health visitors often find they can do much to help families. Ms Simpkins remembers a woman whose young son had cancer and then, to add to her problems, drainage problems caused her house to flood. Ms Simpkins was able to work with the housing office to get the problem attended to and with social workers to obtain money for a new carpet, as well as discussing with her client the implications of caring for a child having chemotherapy.

Ms Simpkins took a degree in biology and geography before training as a registered nurse. After a period in a hospital casualty department, and five months as a volunteer in Bangladesh with Save the Children, she

the rest of her time at meetings, in health promotion group work, writing records and in liaison with other agencies.

"That is extremely important, particularly in cases of child abuse," she says. "I am part of a multi-disciplinary team, and we meet every week to discuss the cases in which we have joint involvement."

When visiting new babies, Ms Simpkins says, health visitors may have to provide emotional support for both parents in adapting to the new role. They also give advice on feeding, physical care of the baby, sterilising bottles, babies who cry in the night and the conditions to which young babies are prone. At the same time, they monitor the condition of the

and refer the children to a general practitioner. They also notice children with severe learning difficulties.

There was, for instance, a little boy who came for the 2½-year check. He was unable to concentrate, saying few single words and hitting his mother. After referral to the child development team with its wide range of facilities, including speech therapy, he is at three-and-a-half a chatty little boy with a good attention span and starting to speak in sentences.

During the summer, Ms Simpkins and her colleagues went out with the Tower Hamlets health bus. This is available to the community for advice on any aspect of health and for checks on blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Ms Simpkins is involved in developing a training programme for people from the ethnic minorities who will act as a link between the health service and the community and vice versa. She also works closely with a Newpin group, which offers support to new parents.

Only registered nurses can become health visitors. They follow a one-year post-registration course at a college of higher education, polytechnic or university. Prospective students with university entrance qualifications may be eligible for degree courses at the universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Southampton, which integrate registered general nurses' training with health visiting.

Further details: National Boards for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, ENB Careers, P.O. Box 356, Sheffield S8 0SJ; WNB, 13th Floor, Pearl Assurance House, Greifgates Road, Cardiff CF1 3AG; SNB, 22 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JZ; JHB, 79 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JR.



Julie Simpkins: studied biology and geography before becoming a registered nurse

'My patch is only about half a mile square, but within that I have 180 families with 314 children under five, and 34 unsupported single parents'

trained as a health visitor and is now employed in Globe Town by the Tower Hamlets Area Health Authority, east London.

Tower Hamlets, she says, has one of the highest fertility rates in the country. "My patch is only about half a mile square, but within that I have 180 families with 314 children under five," she says. "Sixty-three per cent of the caseload are Bangladeshi and there are other ethnic minorities as well. Five of the children are on the child protection register and there are 34 unsupported single parents."

With the Bangladeshi mothers Ms Simpkins has to work through an interpreter. She spends about half the week home-visiting, does at least two half-day clinic sessions, and spends

mother and look out for post-natal depression. "We spend quite a lot of time with families working through their anxieties about giving children immunisation, particularly whooping cough," Ms Simpkins says. "We also carry out developmental assessments in conjunction with either the general practitioner or the clinic medical officer. We do a hearing test at eight months and a health screening questionnaire at eight, 18 months and two-and-a-half years. Assessments in between are done by the doctor."

At the eight-month check, health visitors have detected severe hearing loss in children, whom they refer to an audiologist clinic for more extensive testing. They pick up conditions such as iron deficiency, anaemia or rickets

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS 071-481 1066

WALTHAM FOREST HEALTH AUTHORITY
Whipps Cross Hospital
PLANNING MANAGER
Salary: £21.9K plus PRP

Due to the promotion of the post-holder to RMI Project Manager, a vacancy exists in this key strategic planning role.

Reporting to the Assistant Unit General Manager (Projects) this post offers excellent development opportunities. Whipps Cross is one of the major hospitals in North East Thames and is well placed to build on its excellent clinical reputation in the coming years.

The post-holder will:

- Develop, co-ordinate, business and corporate planning model for the Unit
- Ensure that appropriate information on activity, cost and quality is available for health care contracts
- Further establish our marketing and competitive intelligence function
- Negotiate activity targets within the Unit with clinicians and Service Managers

The successful candidate may come from a variety of professional backgrounds with either Public or private sector experience but must possess flexibility, creativity and good communication skills.

Philip Hession, Assistant Unit General Manager (Projects) will be happy to discuss this post informally, on 081 539 5222 ext 69.

Application form and information pack available from: The Personnel Department, Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone E11 1NR. Tel: 081 539 2811 (24 hour answerphone)

Provisional interview date: Monday, December 17, 1990.

Closing date: December 7, 1990.

The Authority aims to be an equal opportunity employer

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LEWES

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
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You will be a graduate with appropriate accounting or management qualifications and at least 10 years proven experience.

In addition to a salary in excess of £20,000, the benefits package will include:

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For further information please ring Michael Davies, Force Personnel Officer, on (0273) 475432 ext 4135.

Closing date for applications: December 14.

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SUSSEX POLICE

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The Council is seeking a successor to its present Director of Finance who retires on 31 March 1991. Both the Authority and the District are passing through a phase of rapid change, and the Council, having just appointed a new Chief Executive, is reviewing its organisation and operations to equip itself to face the challenges of the 1990s. You will be responsible for giving financial advice to Members and the administration of all the Council's financial affairs, heading a team more than 50 strong. As a member of the Chief Officers Management Team, you will also be expected to play a key role in the Council's corporate activities. You will need a full professional qualification (preferably IFFA) and have several years experience at senior level in local government.

We can offer a competitive salary, excellent new office accommodation and the chance to live in a delightful part of north west Essex. There is a car leasing scheme, and the Council may be prepared to offer temporary housing accommodation, as well as relocation expenses in certain cases.

Applications (no forms), giving full personal details and CV and the names of two referees should be sent to the Chief Executive, Keith Ivory, at Uttlesford District Council, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER, by 2 December 1990. Further details will be sent on request, and if you would like to have an informal discussion on the post, please telephone Alan Haem or Tony Forrow on 0799 516516. It is hoped that interviews will take place during the first week of January 1991.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
SUSSEX COAST

We are seeking a strongly motivated individual to join us as an Internal Management Consultant. We offer project based and one-off assignments in all our service areas. Quality assurance, systems reviews and performance targeting and monitoring are some of the activities in which you will be involved.

You will have had extensive practical experience in preparing services and systems to be quality assured and in the preparation of business plans. You will also have had experience of research and analytical work in a management environment and will have had responsibility for seeing projects through from initial investigation to successful implementation. You will hold a qualification such as the D.M.S. or a relevant degree.

We are offering a competitive salary and P.F.P. of circa £20,000 per annum plus car, BUPA, health screening and an attractive expense package.

To apply send your C.V. or obtain an application form from the Personnel Services Department, Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 4AH. Telephone: 0273 775450 Ext. 2225. For informal discussion please telephone Malcolm Robins on Ext 2225.

Interviews will be held on Monday 17th December 1990.

We have a "no-smoking" policy for all new employees.

DIRECTOR
£19,000-£21,000 p.a.

The Freud Museum occupies the house in which Sigmund Freud spent the last year of his life. It contains Freud's furniture, his library and papers, and his large collection of Egyptian, Classical and Oriental antiquities, and works of art.

The Director will be responsible for the general administration of the Museum, the care of its collections, the publication of its holdings. The Director will supervise the educational programme of the Museum, including special exhibitions, lecture series and conferences. The Director will be responsible for and supervise the fundraising programme of the Museum.

Candidates should have experience in the running of museums or similar institutions. A familiarity with the history of modern thought, including psychoanalysis, would be an advantage. A knowledge of German would be desirable.

The successful candidate will be expected to take up the appointment on 1 April 1991.

Applications including full particulars and the names of two referees should be sent in writing, by 15 December 1990, to The Secretary, Search Committee, Freud Museum, 20 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX.

FREUD MUSEUM
Collections
Exhibitions
Education
Public Events
Research and Publications

LEGAL

Solicitors
KINGSTON UPON THAMES

Surrey is preparing to take on the challenges of the 1990's through programmes of initiatives designed to achieve a modern management style where the customers' needs are paramount. The newly structured Legal Services Division in County Hall is pioneering these initiatives through the use of modified trading accounts. Applications are invited from enthusiastic, forward thinking professionals to take on two posts.

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Up to £27,321

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Up to £22,501

To prepare and present child care cases in Juvenile, County and High Courts and give advice on all child care legal matters. You should have an aptitude for advocacy and ideally have two years' post admission experience.

Our benefits package is amongst the most extensive in local government including the full cost of relocation, a generous mortgage subsidy scheme and may include subsidised lease car and free BUPA cover.

Enquiries would also be welcome from those interested in part-time or job sharing arrangements. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Frances Ware, Staffing Officer on 081 541 9104. For an application form and further details write to Legal Services Division (ref FW), County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN, or telephone 081 541 5023 (answerphone after office hours). Closing date 18 December 1990.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

The HALL Training Centre
MANAGER
REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING TRAINING

The Hall Training Centre based at Dartford in Kent is a prestigious well equipped centre for providing specialised training in refrigeration and air conditioning to companies throughout the U.K. both at the Centre and on site.

The Manager is seeking and the Centre seeks a successor who will continue the steady growth of its activities, will lead it into Europe and develop its concern for environmental friendliness. Suitable candidates will have strong entrepreneurial attitudes, will have experience of refrigeration and will be committed to the importance of industrial training.

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For further information telephone: 0322 278131 (24 hr answerphone).

PUBLIC & HEALTH CARE

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL AND NURSING PLACEMENTS
U.K. MANAGER

THE TASK: To establish and maintain a London based office for one of Australia's leading medical and nursing deputising and staff placement agencies. This would involve recruitment of doctors and nurses in the United Kingdom and Ireland to work for short and long term periods in a variety of Australian and New Zealand locations. Recruitment is currently done from South Australia but rapidly increasing demand has necessitated a full-time United Kingdom based position. Placement of Australian health staff wishing to work in the United Kingdom would also be undertaken.

THE PERSON: A registered nurse with at least five years of experience. The successful applicant will also be a mature self-motivated person who would enjoy the challenge of running a new venture with minimal supervision. A high degree of interpersonal and organisational skills will be required. Formal experience in personnel selection and/or business development would be desirable but not essential.

CONDITIONS: An attractive salary package will be negotiated including a significant performance incentive component.

APPLICATIONS: Applications should be sent before Dec. 4th to:

Dr Peter Schloeffel
Australian Medical and Nursing Placements
Ardmore House
Purley Road
Ilford IC2 6BK ESSEX

Or Faxed to 081 518 6617

Phone enquiries can be made after the 26th November on 081 518 2275.

PUBLIC & HEALTH CARE

SCARBOROUGH HEALTH AUTHORITY
GENERAL MANAGER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DESIGNATE)
PROVIDER UNIT
Salary: £40,500pa.
plus lease car, performance related pay and re-location package.

Following the decision to combine the provision and management of all the Health Services for the entire district into a single provider unit, we are now seeking a General Manager for the new Unit. The task will be to build on the project work already underway following the expression of interest in NHS Trust Status for 1992 and to lead the single unit through this period of considerable change. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will become the Chief Executive of the trust.

Applicants must have substantial senior management experience in the health Service and possess leadership qualities of a high order.

In addition to being a challenging post in a developing district it offers an opportunity to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty and work in a very pleasant environment.

Interested candidates are invited to contact:

Mr Colin Coates, The District General Manager on 0723 368111 ext 2362. and in addition an information pack is available from: Duncan Henderson, Director of Personnel Scarborough, North Yorkshire. YO12 6QL Tel 0723 368111 ext 2196

Completed CVs should be returned to: The Director of Personnel by Friday, December 14, 1990

TO PLACE YOUR PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES PLEASE RING 071-481 1066

RUGBY UNION

SPORT

Stunned England attempt to ease memory of defeat

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, BRISBANE

THE morning after the dreadful day before found England's cricketers swimming, sailing, sightseeing or simply sleeping off a night of sorrow-drowning. Of the need to climb straight back on the bicycle you have just fallen off, there was no sign of acknowledgment, a low-key practice session being attended only by the four blameless men who did not play in the first Test.

The view of the team manager, Micki Stewart, was that his shattered players, faced with the urgent need to cleanse themselves of a foul memory, could best achieve that by not even looking at a bat or ball for 36 hours.

He was aware that those at home, stunned by the scale and speed of Sunday's defeat, might very well feel that to reward such a surrender with a day off is akin to giving a common a blank cheque. Stewart does not care; he is on the spot and he is doing what he thinks best. On this occasion, I believe he is right.

The faces told their own story on Sunday night. Disappointment is not the half of it. Every England player looked somewhere between shell-shocked and ashamed. They needed to forget and, on balance, a "punishment" net session would have been a show for the sake of appearances, and counter-productive with it.

There are times when to be an Englishman in the Australian summer is not all it is cracked up to be, and yesterday was unquestionably one of them. Sportsmen, and more particularly their managers, are fond of saying that they never read newspapers, a claim I treat with the gravest scepticism, but if they wished to avoid deepening their

trough of depression, the England party would have been wise to avoid the Australian press on its day of triumph. Winning an Ashes Test in three days would have been reason enough for some playful "pommie-baiting", but there was also the rugby league, the hockey and the Japan Cup horserace to celebrate. They even beat us at netball. The front pages did not spare us. "England drubbed, Aussie-style," *The Australian* announced; "England's Sunday, bloody Sunday," the *Sydney Morning Herald* gloated; "Pommelled," one of the tabloids roared.

After the headline-writers, the columnists weighed in. Ian Chappell wrote that England "played like novices". His brother, Greg, said their batting "will haunt them for some time to come". Everyone said that England had thrown away an outstanding chance and that they were most unlikely to be granted a better one. It is hard to disagree.

The break of precisely a month before the second Test is a mixed blessing. It does give the team a period of reappraisal, and Graham Gooch a period of recovery which now assumes more importance than ever. Conversely, the cricket played in the coming month is exclusively limited-overs until December 20, and that is going to be of precious little help in the areas of technique and self-discipline.

The harshest judgement is that it would make no difference if they had a full month of first-class cricket, and it has some validity. Surely, English batsmen saw enough of Terry Alderman last year to have absorbed some lessons? Apparently not.

Sussex may yet return to Central Ground

COUNTY cricket may yet be played again at the historic Central Ground at Hastings, which was expected to have been developed in 1989 (Ivo Tennant writes). Because of the recession, work has still not begun on the planned shopping centre.

Sussex are to play a second XI match there next year and, although they are keen to continue staging fixtures at Arundel, they have yet to formulate plans for 1992. Sussex are unlikely to use a new ground outside Hastings, which is owned by the borough council, for several years.



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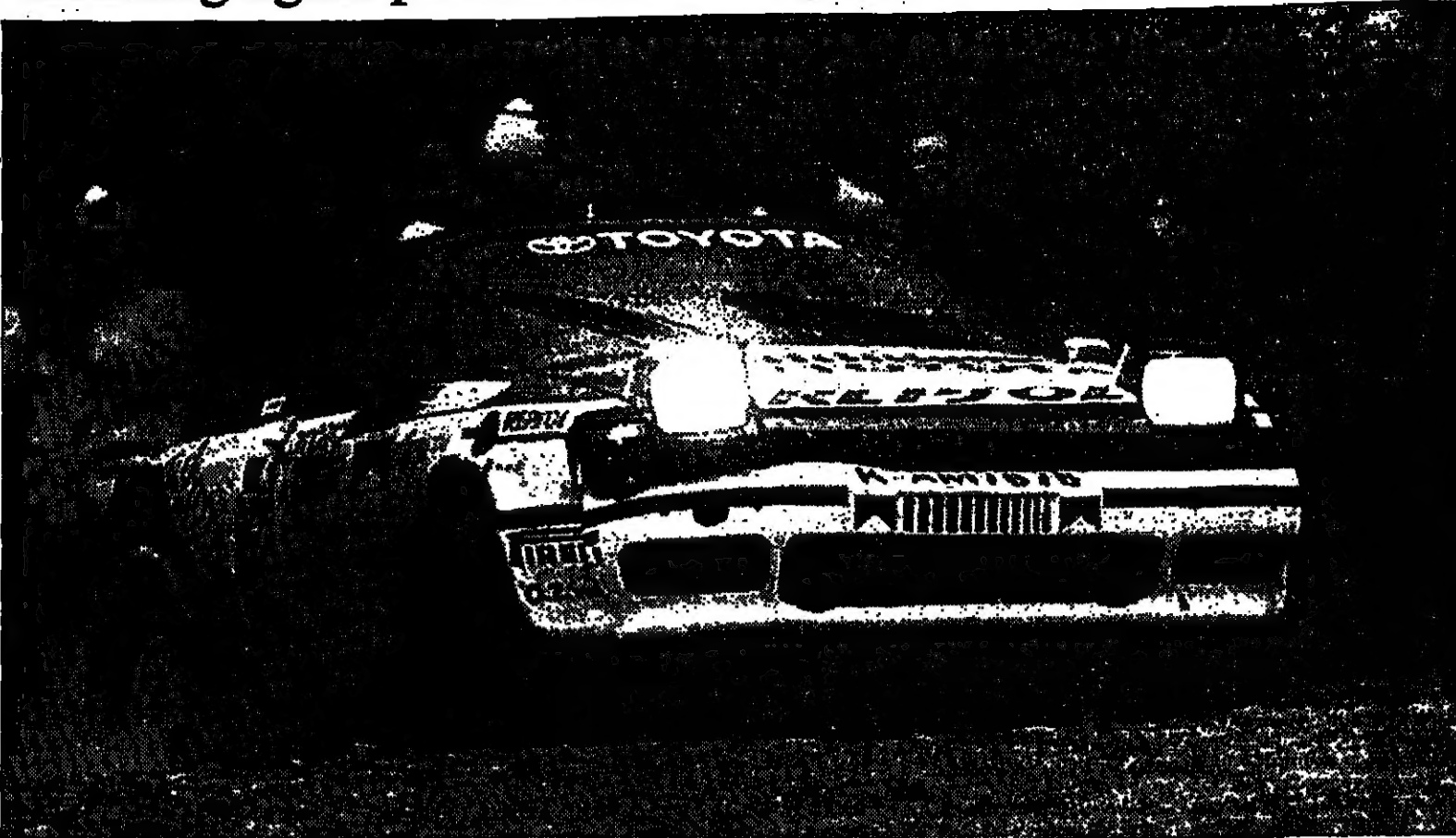
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TIM 12

Leading lights press hard through the taxing forest stages



Fast charger: Carlos Sainz, of Spain, the world champion, powers through the Wykeham special stage of the Lombard RAC rally yesterday

Sainz displaces troubled Finns

By STEPHEN SLATER

CONSISTENCY, followed by a late charge, moved Carlos Sainz of Spain into the lead of the Lombard RAC rally yesterday as disaster struck in the North Yorkshire forests for the three Finnish drivers who had dominated the early stages. Today only Juha Kankkunen remains in contention after the overnight leader, Markku Alen, retired with engine failure and Pentti Airikkala wrecked his Ford Sierra Cosworth.

As the cars tackled a double loop in the notorious special stages of Langdale, Cropton, Wykeham and Dalby, the three-way battle between the

Finns saw Alen lose his overnight lead on the first special stage of the day. His newly developed Subaru Legacy was overhauled by the more powerful Lancia Delta integrale of Juha Kankkunen.

Alen held his position ahead of Airikkala, but neither driver was to complete the route. On the fourth competitive section of the day, smoke from Alen's exhaust heralded a turbo-charger failure and, two stages later, the Subaru was pushed to the end of the 20-mile Dalby stage.

Airikkala's demise was more spectacular. Charging through the Cropton special stage, his Sierra Cosworth ran

wide on a corner and into the air, rolling four times. Airikkala and his co-driver, Ronan MacNamee, escaped unhurt, but the 1989 rally winners were out of the event.

Kankkunen, too, hit problems on the Dalby stage. A fractured pipe lost him his brakes, and Kenneth Eriksson, the Swedish driver, inherited the lead as the Finn dropped back to sixth. By the end of the day Kankkunen had recovered second place.

Eriksson's Mitsubishi Galant led for six special stages until the wrong tyre choice on the second run through Dalby lost him time. Sainz, the 1990 World Champion, was poised

to take the lead.

Sainz had left Harrogate in his Toyota Celica in fifth place after a cautious approach to the short spectator stages on Sunday. Once into his stride on the longer sections, however, a string of top-three times moved him up the leader board. The Spaniard set the fastest times on the last two stages of the day.

Malcolm Wilson, the leading British driver, held his fifth place.

Today the cars leave Harrogate at 9.30am before continuing through Broomlyn at 11.20 and Craik, near Hawick, at 12.45.

They head into southern Scotland to complete the Cantorna and Elybank stages in the Tweed Valley before returning to Kielder. After stages at Falstone and Redcastle, the competitors will reach Newcastle upon Tyne at 8pm.

RESULTS (after 22 special stages): 1, C Sainz (Sp), Toyota Celica; 2, J Kankkunen (Fin), Lancia Delta integrale; 3, K Eriksson (Swe), Mitsubishi Galant; 4, M Wilson (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth; 5, M Wilson (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth; 6, M Wilson (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth; 7, M Wilson (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth; 8, M Wilson (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth; 9, M Wilson (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth; 10, M Wilson (GB), Ford Sierra Cosworth.

EC out of step in attempt to project Games image

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITAIN and the other 11 European Community countries have been offered nearly £3 million between them if their competitors wear the insignia of the 12 stars of the EC on their trackuits at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The national Olympic committees (NOCs) of the 12 states are now considering the offer and will discuss among themselves how the money could be split up with the possibility that larger countries like Britain could get £400,000 each.

Originally, the EC had suggested that for Barcelona and the preceding winter Games at Albertville the countries should march behind the flag of the community at the opening ceremony. The NOCs declined.

A proposal to have the EC insignia on the trackuits together with the flag of the competitor's country followed. Although competitors already wear the insignia of their country while representing their country at the



Games, this suggestion received a mixed reception with Germany and Britain disapproving and Luxembourg accepting the idea.

With the failure to achieve unanimity, the EC last week in Brussels made a financial offer to the NOCs from its budget for public relations. The EC is eager to see greater international recognition of the community in 1992, the year of greater integration.

Dick Palmer, the general secretary of the British Olympic Association, said yesterday: "We have to weigh up the offer of money, which could be used to help sport, with the integrity of the Olympic Games."

He said that no formula had yet been worked out for division of the money. The populations of the countries and the number of athletes

representing them at the Olympics would all be considered. Palmer said that there was no hurry because the 1992 Winter Olympics did not start until February 8 but that a decision by the NOCs was likely to be made by next summer.

Palmer said that the impact of the EC on sport in the individual countries was going to be a formidable one. "However, all the processes are complex and will take some time to be sorted out."

The International Olympic Committee clearly has a problem with the sanctity of the boundaries of its member nations. It fears that in the Soviet Union the individual republics may attempt to be individually affiliated to the IOC as the country becomes less unified.

On the other hand, East and West Germany have now merged into one state again and there is a move towards unity in the EC nations. The European Commission is putting money into a festival of youth sport involving 10 disciplines, which will take place in Brussels in next July.

Checks on payments urged

PARIS (Reuters) — An uncontrolled flood of money is to blame for the financial scandals rocking France's professional game, the president of the French football league said yesterday.

Jean Sadoul proposed urgent reforms including a limit on players' wages, which he described as "scandalous". Sadoul also suggested a swift examination of the finances of

all professional clubs, a ban on transfers for clubs in financial difficulty and a cut from 21 to 14 in the number of professional players each club can register.

Sadoul confessed that he had been unable to control the arrival of large sums of money in the game, mainly from publicity and television, during the past ten years.

"I was wrong. I am not very

proud of it. I made mistakes," he told a press conference.

Sadoul's statement follows fraud charges last week against the Bordeaux club president, Claude Bezi. The Union club manager, Roland Courbis, awaits trial on charges of receiving undeclared sums from transfers.

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Wasps drawn into the Tigers' lair

By DAVID HANDS

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AFTER Leicester had removed Bath, the holders, from the Pilkington Cup on Saturday, Dean Richards thought his side should not be considered as favourites. "There's Wasps, Orrell, Gloucester still left in the competition and any one of those could win," the Leicester captain said.

That will no longer be true after the fourth round because Mike Peasey, the president of the Rugby Football Union, paired Leicester with Wasps on January 26 when the draw was made at Twickenham yesterday. Indeed Leicester, toasts of all those who saw Bath as the big threat to their cup aspirations, were drawn first and will be pleased that they have at least a home game and the promise of another bumper crowd.

The other outstanding match of a round which includes 11 of the 13 first division clubs is that at Kingsholm between Gloucester and Harlequins. The two clubs are due to meet on the last league Saturday, next April, but at the moment it looks as though their cup tie will be the more significant game. By January, Harlequins will have the undivided attention of Mike Davis, their director of coaching.

Davis must give most of his time to his duties at Sherborne School before Christmas but Harlequins' affairs in the new year. Indeed the entire competition will have a fresh look to it after the fourth round, when so many famous names will be absent — though those are unlikely to include Orrell.

Fourth-round draw

Gloucester v Harlequins
Leicester v Bath
London Irish v Rugby
Northampton v Saracens
Nottingham v Richmond
Oxford v Newcastle Gorge
Rugby v Wasps
Sheffield v Wakefield
Matches to be played on January 26.

The standard-bearers for the North have been drawn to meet Newcastle Gorge, whom they beat 76-0 on November 10, and the only other northern club left in the competition, Sheffield, are unlikely to have much joy at Rosslyn Park.

Leicester's tie with Wasps will mean the clubs play each other three times this season. Leicester won their league encounter 22-12 in October but they play again on Monday. Wasps will hope that some of their injured internationals may be fit for the cup game. They have been without Oti, Buza, Clough and Bates for most of the season, of whom Oti and Buza are likeliest to be back.

While Sheffield carry the torch for the third division, the draw produced one all second-division tie, between London Irish and Rugby. These two are first and second respectively in the division and Rugby's only league defeat this far has been at the hands of the Irish, by 29-17.

There is recent form, too, as a guide to the tie between Northampton and Saracens. Northampton having won their league match in September, 15-6, though, as Leicester have shown during the last 11 days, you should not necessarily take league form as an accurate guide to the cup.

Artificial tinkering must be booted into touch

THE bigger-goals argument is running harder than ever. Last week, the European football union, Uefa, told the international body, Fifa, that bigger goals would, after all, be a bad thing. Fifa, or to put it another way, Joao Havelange, the president, has gone on record as saying bigger goals would be the saving of the game.

I am not quite sure which side has the right of it here, but I suspect neither. There is something rotten in football, for sure, but I do not think bigger goals is the answer. It would be like reforming Lady Macbeth with a nose job.

Besides, anybody who has played knows that goals are the most elastic things in creation. As a goalie I have known brief and magic periods when the goal at my back seemed the size of a cat-flap; compare and contrast with endless hours when it felt like Marble Arch.

Forward-suffer from the same affliction in reverse. There is no doubt that goals are the most elastic things in creation. As a goalie I have known brief and magic periods when the goal at my back seemed the size of a cat-flap; compare and contrast with endless hours when it felt like Marble Arch. Forward-suffer from the same affliction in reverse.

SIMON BARNES takes a goalkeeper's view of the argument that increasing the size of goals is the way to redeem football after the World Cup

goal should be more vulnerable. Suggestions on bringing this about have been offered with varying degrees of facetiousness. One idea is a maximum height for goalies, in which eventually I will certainly make a comeback. Another is to reduce the number of players, as the Rugby League did when freeing themselves from the Rugby Union.

All these suggestions stem from an absolute unarguable and established fact: that last World Cup was absolutely bloody awful. Of course it had its moments, but too much of the tournament was a succession of 0-0 draws.

Let us not be crass. There is absolutely nothing wrong with a good 0-0 draw. Sunday's 3-2 tele-

Manchester United and Chelsea was a pretty poor game: cheap goals don't make good sport.

A good 0-0 draw is a delight, and not just to the connoisseur. The full-blooded opposing of the wills is what football, like all other games, is about. Try-less rugby can be great in baseball, the last game of the last World Series was a "pitcher's duel". That means that both teams found it almost impossible to score. The game finished a miserly 2-1, and it was an absolutely riveting three hours of top quality sport.

You don't need runs and wickets to make cricket a spectacular contest. The melodrama of a one-day game can be as dull as reading the *Amstrad* manual. Jack Russell's ultimately unavailing and almost ruthless resistance in the Bridgetown Test in the spring was one of the year's highlights.

You don't need thousands of organic moments to make sport satisfying. Formula One is absorbing because it has the same fric-

Demolition Derbys are not. The last World Cup was not desperate and ghastly because there were only 2.21 goals per game. It would have been equally awful with dozens if the tournament had been played in the same spirit.

Football lost its innocence years ago. The more important the game has become in financial and political terms, the fewer and fewer forwards seem to play it. Years ago, we had five up front now we often have teams with only one. The art of stopping your opponents from playing reached its high point in Italia '90.

Football has become a game of prevention, rather than inspiration. The format of the last World Cup, with the lamentable penalty shoot-outs, gave a clear incentive to all teams to play the spoiling game: pass back, kick opponents, play offside, defend in numbers, attack in breakaways. This is all very well

if you are the underdog playing a team attacking for all it is worth. But in match after match, both teams played like that. It was not just a poor spectacle, it was bad sport.

We didn't get a fascinating tactical battle; we got two sides self-strangled by lack of ambition; by fear. It all mattered far too much. The rewards for not losing were too great: the rewards for winning too slight. It appeals me that neither Uefa nor Fifa have made moves to get rid of the penalty shoot-out.

Perhaps they think Americans will love it, when the World Cup is held in the States in 1994. Have they not noticed that the route to a penalty shoot-out is via two hours of crippling tedium?

Instead, they are arguing the toss about bigger goals. Tchah! What football needs is not bigger goals but bigger hearts and minds.

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